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Hafa Adai!

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Alternate care site nearly done

Jesse V. Sablan, left, president of Helios Engineering Group, and Samuel McPhetres, right, partner at GUMA Architects LLC, present the blueprint of Kanoa Resort's transformation into an Alternative Care Site. JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Alternative Care Site that's meant to isolate active COVID-19 cases at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe will be completed within the next week and a half, according to the contractor that's handling the renovation work.

Jesse V. Sablan, president of Helios Energy Group, which is the contractor behind the renovation work at Kanoa Resort, said the Alternative Care Site, which will take up the entire left side of the hotel lobby, will include a pharmacy storage, a staff room, an entry point for family to check up

See CARE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, May 12, 2020**

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	151	1	152
Recovered	124	0	124
Active	25	1	26
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19	0	19
Recovered	12	0	12
Active	5	0	5
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	2,695		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Saipan has 5 active COVID-19 cases; Guam has 1 new positive COVID-19 case.

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

IT&E on scam calls: Personal info is safe

After a recent spate of scam phone calls in the CNMI, IT&E assured its subscribers yesterday that their personal information has not been stolen.

In an advisory yesterday, IT&E said it started receiving reports of suspicious calls on Monday, May 11, 2020, and its engineering team immediately investigated and found that the IT&E system and network "have not been hacked or compromised and that the calls are being generated outside of the IT&E network by an unknown third party."

IT&E also stressed that

See IT&E on Page 4

PSS to reopen schools in Sept.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System will reopen schools in September, with new protocols in place to comply with social distancing measures.

How? Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said the details are still being worked out.

He confirmed that the decision to reopen campuses in September is now concrete and it's just a matter of ironing out the details. "We're looking at a September opening but with a 'new normal' school schedule. The idea is there, but the details, we're still ironing it out," he said.

Although they would like

See PSS on Page 4

LEE PAN TO CCC: 'Show us the money'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

» 3 casino commissioners are confirmed

The Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation confirmed yesterday three new members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, urging them to give the panel teeth and get Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to pay its obligations and make money come to the CNMI.

The three casino commissioners are former CCC executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, former House speaker Rafael S. Demapan, and former Zoning board chair

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
United Airlines updates its flight schedules for Guam, Saipan, Palau, and Micronesia.

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NATION
President Trump insists his administration has "met the moment" on coronavirus testing.

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ASIA
The lockdown that restricted millions to their homes in the Philippines will be eased.

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Local

Man hurt after car plunges off Bird Island ravine

A man who sustained a neck wound after his car fell off a ravine at the Bird Island Lookout in Marpi was rescued yesterday morning and brought to the hospital.

According to a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services statement, the victim sustained a 2-inch laceration in his neck and was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center emergency room at 12:50am.

DFEMS did not provide further information on the person's condition. There was also no immediate information on the victim's identity or what caused the car to fall into the ravine.

The DFEMS statement said that it received a call of an auto run off incident at 11:45am yesterday and units from the Susupe Fire Station, the Garapan Fire Station, and the Kagman Fire Station were dispatched to the location at 11:45am, with the first DFEMS unit arriving on scene at 11:54am.

"Rescuers were able to extricate the patient and fully mobilize the patient using a cervical collar and spine board to prevent further injuries," the DFEMS statement said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

This Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services photo posted on the DFEMS Facebook page shows the car that plunged off the Bird Island Lookout ravine. DFEMS

'Investigation in Banes' traffic case now completed'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

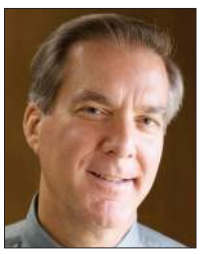
The investigation has been completed in connection with the arrest of lawyer David G. Banes last March 9 for allegedly leaving the scene after hitting another car with his vehicle in Susupe, according to the Office of the Attorney General yesterday.

» Chief prosecutor says COVID-19 delayed probe

"The case is active," said Chief Prosecutor John Bradley in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for an update on the status of the investigation.

The traffic docket was suspended for awhile due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bradley said, but Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja recently resumed setting and hearing traffic cases. "We hope to get all cases moving again as soon as possible," Bradley said.

In Banes' case, Bradley said, they are awaiting the written report from the Department of Public Safety, which should arrive this week. He said the investigating officer was delayed by COVID-19 duties. "Once we have the completed report, we can review and decide on what formal charges, if any, will follow," he said.



Bradley

DPS did not release a press release about the incident. Sources at DPS disclosed that when the incident happened, Banes was allegedly under the influence of alcohol. Sources said Banes' vehicle hit a car on Beach Road in Susupe. Police officers allegedly pulled over the lawyer's vehicle by Joeten in Susupe. No one was injured in the accident.

When previously asked about the allegations surrounding his arrest, Banes stated, "Not true at all."

Banes is the court-appointed counsel for Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig. The jury trial of Mayor Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, on corruption charges, was supposed to start last March 10, but U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona postponed it for a week at that time due to Banes' arrest.

The court had postponed the trial several times due to various reasons. The trial is currently set for July 7, 2020.

Company claims IPI failed to pay it for services

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A corporation is suing Pacific Imperial International (CNMI) LLC in federal court for allegedly failing to pay it $144,623 for removing construction debris and landfill materials from IPI's construction site in Garapan and $86,000 for consulting services.

Tang's Corp., through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, is suing IPI for breach of agreements. As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from IPI.

Tang's is demanding unspecified damages and asked the district court to order IPI to take possession of the property stored by Tang's or to provide for the property's disposal.

Like a couple of other companies that are also suing IPI for unpaid services, Tang's is asking the court to issue a mechanic's lien in favor of the company to attach to the real property on which the company provided services under the first agreement (removal of debris). The company demanded an award of interest, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Tang's also asked the court to direct IPI to proceed with arbitration with the corporation under the second agreement (consulting services).

According to Scoggins in the complaint, Tang's agreed to remove construction debris and landfill materials from IPI's resort construction site in January 2016, and to store the materials for disposal at IPI's expense. Scoggins said IPI has failed to pay at least $144,623.

Scoggins said Tang's was required to advance fees for government permits and other fees, including ongoing fees to the Department of Public Lands. The lawyer said IPI is responsible for these charges and fees.

Scoggins said that in November 2018, Tang's was hired to perform consulting services for IPI related to the fire suppression system at IPI's resort construction on Saipan. He said IPI has failed to pay at least $86,000 under the agreement. Tang's Corp. has demanded arbitration, but IPI allegedly has ignored the demands.

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May's FAC drops due to falling fuel prices—CUC

The Fuel Adjustment Charge for the month of May went down to $0.08323 per kilowatt-hour effective May 11, 2020.

In an advisory yesterday, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. notified it yesterday that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel prices that will affect the FAC. As a result, the current FAC rate of $0.11885 per kWh has been decreased to $0.08323 per kWh.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate.

Although the FAC rate has been decreased, CUC encourages its consumers to practice energy conservation. ***(PR)***

OPD questions OAG 'practice' of filing detective's affidavit but no complaint

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Defender is questioning the Office of the Attorney General's "practice" of submitting in court a police detective's affidavit in support of an arrest warrant in criminal cases but not accompanied by a complaint.

But assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, who is counsel for the CNMI government, asserted that the rule says the government needs to file a complaint or affidavit—or both complaint and affidavit. Hinds said the affidavit that indicates probable cause of the charges is the complaint.

Assistant public defender Jean Nogues and chief public defender Douglas Hartig brought up the OAG's practice of filing only the detective's affidavit during Monday afternoon's bail hearing for Kennedy Masubed.

The OPD was appointed as counsel for Masubed, a Department of Corrections inmate who allegedly stabbed and wounded a male barber with a shiv. The barber had just cut his hair at the Department of Corrections in Susupe Thursday morning. Masubed allegedly admitted to police that he beat up the barber for being gay.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered the parties in the case to file briefs on the OAG practice, saying the OPD's concern has far-reaching ramifications. The OPD was ordered to file the brief on or before May 20, 2020. The OAG was given until June 30, 2020, to file an opposition. The motion hearing will be on July 8, 2020.

At the bail hearing in the Supreme Court courtroom, Nogues pointed out that, without the complaint, there is no charging document. Hinds said this was his first time to hear the argument. He said the arrest warrant was issued by the court after a police detective submitted an affidavit that found probable cause to charge Masubed.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Kennedy Masubed is escorted out of the Supreme Court courtroom by a Corrections officer after his bail hearing Monday afternoon.

Nogues said the rule requires the filing of a charging document because a defendant has the right to be informed of the charges. Hartig, who appeared at the hearing via teleconference, said the affidavit was not accompanied by a complaint. Nogues also pointed out that the affidavit itself is not a complaint. He said he does not see any reason to delay the preliminary hearing.

When Camacho asked Hartig how much time he needs to file a brief about the issue, Hinds questioned if the court is putting everything on hold in Masubed's case. The prosecutor said OPD has no case law to support its argument so the court should just deny it. Hinds said what OPD is bringing up is a motion to dismiss when, in fact, the government has yet to file an information, which is the formal charging document.

Stimulus checks sent out this week

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance will be processing and sending a total of 20,000 stimulus checks via direct deposit or paper check within this week.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said that the timeline for the stimulus checks is on track and that a total of 10,000 taxpayers have already been given their checks through the web portal that was provided by the department. This was for those who chose to have the funds deposited directly into their bank accounts.

"It's not going to be delayed as we thought it would be," he said. "We want to be able to expedite the money to residents of the CNMI who filled for 2018 or 2019 tax refund."

The U.S. Treasury transferred $37.6 million to the CNMI government so it could release stimulus checks to eligible CNMI taxpayers as soon as possible. This will provide up to $1,200 for each eligible individual and $2,400 for joint returns, as well as $500 for each qualifying child.

109 economic injury disaster loans OK'd in NMI

The U.S. Small Business Administration has disbursed nationwide over three million economic injury disaster loans advances totaling $9.8 billion. In the Northern Marianas, 109 loans have been approved, as of May 8, with the amount totaling $534,000.

The low-interest federal disaster loan is being offered by the SBA as working capital for small businesses in the CNMI suffering substantial economic injuries due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an earlier statement, SBA administrator Jovita Carranza assured the Commonwealth of its commitment to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible, by assisting small businesses on the islands through federal disaster loans.

"We will be swift in our efforts to help these small businesses recover from the financial impacts of the coronavirus," she said.

Small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises impacted by COVID-19 since Jan. 31, 2020, may qualify to avail of up to $2 million economic injury disaster loan, to help with their operating expenses.

Applicants may apply online, or download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. The deadline to apply for the loan is on Dec. 21, 2020. ***(Iva Maurin)***

CARE

From Page 1

on how their loved ones are doing, a triage, a "red zone" where all active cases will be placed, a healed/discharge exit zone, as well as a patient elevator.

Patrick Guerrero of the Office of the Governor later stated that the Alternative Care Site is set to be finished by May 22.

The idea is to have a specific place where all COVID-19 cases will be handled outside the main hospital, thus enabling the hospital to handle people who do not have COVID-19. The Alternative Care Site will be converted back into a hotel once the CNMI is able to stamp out the coronavirus.

According to Sablan, the red zone is for patients who need intensive care and, as soon as they get better, they will be brought up to Kanoa Resort's other rooms. "When they get better, they will be transported up to the second, third, fourth floor, which will be a medical telemetry version of this step down unit from ICU," he said.

Each division of the Alternative Care Site at the lobby will be separated by panels that will serve as dividers. Samuel McPhetres, who is with GUMA Architects LLC that is helping Helios Energy Group in building the Alternative Care Site, said the panels can be taken down should they need more bed space. Also, this will be easier once the site has to be converted back into a hotel.

"We can take the panels off, break down the doors…reconfigure it to how we need it," said McPhetres. "But in three months' time, if we find we need more individual spaces, we can take these down and put it together with minimal disturbance to the rest of the facility."

The idea behind the facility is it's meant to be flexible where it can cater to patients' doctors, nurses, and staff. Additionally, all 152 rooms of Kanoa Resort will be repurposed into a medical telemetry room with the same features as the red zone. The only difference between the red zone and the hotel rooms is that once a patient is in the hotel rooms, they will have privacy.

McPhetres stated that they still need to finish setting up sprinklers and getting the power ready for backup generators so that, once the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system is on island, the contractor will be ready to install it.

"There's a lot of thought that went into this because this could be your family, could be my family," said Sablan. "We're doing what we can to make them comfortable."

Alex Sablan, who is vice president for Corporate Business Development at TanHoldings, which owns the hotel, believes that the CNMI has "flattened the curve" and credits the reduction requirements of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as carried out by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force for this feat. "Flattening the curve" refers to reducing infection rates.

"I think we all believe that that curve has been flattened considerably, but we need to be prepared," said Alex Sablan.

He added that just like every jurisdiction in the United States, the CNMI has been prepared to handle any potential COVID-19 breakout. "There is going to be a timeline that we see out with this current model, but COVID-19 is here until there is a vaccine, until there is a true treatment," said Alex Sablan.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 19 COVID-19 cases, with five active cases, 12 recoveries, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

One additional COVID-19 case has been reported by the Guam Regional Medical City.

To date, there have been 152 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Guam, with five deaths and 124 released from isolation. As this is an evolving situation, information is subject to change with little to no notice.

PSS

From Page 1

to open schools later in the year, and despite wanting to wait for the COVID-19 threat to pass, Ada said that PSS risks losing federal grants if they do so. "I want to open in December, but if we do, we may stand to lose some grants so we have to open. Even if we offer the four-hour teaching time, at least the students are receiving some form of education," he said.

Although the schedule for school year 2020-2021 hasn't been finalized yet, PSS will implement morning and afternoon schedules. Additionally, PSS will only have 10 students per classroom as opposed to the initial 25 students. PSS is calling this "the new normal."

"With the COVID-19 [restrictions] not being lifted, we still have to keep our social distance. Scheduling right now, we haven't finalized it yet but I'm going to be meeting with the principals to discuss the necessary schedule to put in place for our elementary and middle schoolers. We have to make a whole new schedule, beginning from the start of the school day, breaks, lunch, how we're going to enforce social distancing, how many students in each classroom. We cannot have 25 anymore, we will have only 10. Every other room needs to be shut down. It's going to be a new normal," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, there were three plans that were on the table, one of which was reopening schools later than usual. Plan A was delaying the opening of the school year. Plan B, which was dependent on PSS receiving a budget of at least $19 million, would be four-day school weeks, half days, and five-hour pays for teachers, merging schools, and shifting as many courses online as possible. Plan C, which was dependent on PSS receiving a $36-million to $40-million budget, is opening schools on time and following last school year's schedule.

IT&E

From Page 1

statements that customer information has been stolen or compromised is not true.

"We understand that this situation is frustrating to subscribers. We are confident that our network and system are secure and that no customer information has been stolen," said Rose Soledad, IT&E general manager. "We urge customers to refrain from answering calls from unknown numbers at this time and to hang up right away if they do happen to answer such a call."

According to IT&E, the unknown third party responsible for the calls is replicating local phone numbers, which appear on caller ID and hide the actual phone number. The third party hides their actual number and calls local users with auto dialers. This is what is known as "call spoofing" and it's a problem all carriers face. The spoofed calls are coming from phone numbers starting with 670-285, 670-783, 670-789 and 670-786, but these numbers may change.

"Your information only becomes compromised if you provide information during the call. Again, please hang up if you receive a suspicious call," the IT&E advisory states.

IT&E said it is now collecting data to report the calls to the Federal Communications Commission and AT&T, which appears to be the main source of these incoming calls, which are generated outside the CNMI and Guam. "IT&E is taking action to limit such calls to the greatest extent possible," it said.

Subscribers with concerns or that would like to report a suspicious call can reach the IT&E Customer Care Center at 682-4483 or by visiting www.ite.net to send a message.

In addition, FCC provides the following tips on how to avoid spoofing:

■ Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.

■ If you answer the phone and the caller—or a recording—asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.

■ Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with "Yes" or "No."

■ Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls or if you are at all suspicious.

■ If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request. You will usually get a written statement in the mail before you get a phone call from a legitimate source, particularly if the caller is asking for a payment.

■ Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.

■ If you have a voice mail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voicemail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voice mail if you do not set a password. ***(PR)***

MONEY

From Page 1

Mariano Taitano.

Prior to their confirmation, several lawmakers reiterated the need for the commissioners to have a full understanding of the casino industry, to have the highest level of transparency, and to get IPI to fulfill its commitment and obligations.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) gave the strongest opposition to the confirmation. According to her, Demapan, as a lawmaker, accepted items of value from casino investors, including all-expense-paid trips to Asia in 2013—a violation of the Ethics Act.

Sablan also questioned all that have transpired with IPI under Deleon Guerrero's watch as CCC executive director, which include labor violations, documented workplace injuries, environmental violations, and chronic failure to pay vendors, timely remittance of taxes, and endowing the community benefit fund.

As for Taitano, Sablan said that he, as a former lawmaker, co-sponsored the Saipan Casino Act that established the monopoly license, and an exemption from gaming taxes. Sablan said this made the CNMI the only place in the world with a casino industry with no gaming taxes.

"Based on IPI's record of chronic, flagrant, and continuing lack of respect for our laws and the license these past six years, based on the apparent failures of our government to effectively regulate, and based on serious doubts about the viability of this company and this industry [on] our islands, I think a time of reckoning is upon us. …IPI is a bad actor," Sablan added.

While not as strongly opposed as Sablan, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) cautioned the commissioners, and stressed that he wants to see that changes can be done.

"We need to see new money come in, especially on this casino. They need to pay out their obligation," Guerrero said. He specifically wants the commissioners to rectify the problems, the issues, and concerns of the community regarding the community benefit fund.

"We need to account for that. We want to know how it was spent. … Figure out this issue, report back to the local delegation. ...Feed us with information that we want to hear… meaning accountability because that's what we need to share with the community," he added.

Guerrero said that CCC has to get IPI to show proof that it has paid its obligations and not hide behind confidentiality.

In a separate interview, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who nominated all three, thanked the delegation for the opportunity given for the three board members through the entire process.

"These are challenging times and they [commissioners] do play a great role. …They need to make sure that they [casino licensee] follow all the rules and regulations," he added.

The three new commissioners will each serve four-year terms that will expire on April 2024.

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Rotary Club, Karidat hand out relief goods

The Rotary Club of Saipan and the Catholic charity group Karidat Social Services teamed up on Monday to hold a relief goods distribution via drive-thru system at the San Jose pavilion that the club had just repainted. Similar to previous relief drives, this one was for people who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rotary Club president Maria Ayuyu said a total of 200 individuals each got a bag that contained rice, canned goods, toilet tissue, and ramen noodles.

Just last week, the Rotary Club also distributed relief goods to mostly foreign workers who've lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"This time, we are doing this for beneficiaries of Karidat Social Services," said Ayuyu.

Lauri Ogumoro, executive director of Karidat Social Services, was also present during the distribution. According to Ogumoro, individuals who call their office to seek assistance usually receive vouchers from them, but the Rotary Club wanted something different.

"This week, instead of mailing out certificates, we are partnering with them and they are giving out the food," she added.

"This is the partnership that we do. We want to help as much as we can. Rotary Club is for the community and we want to be there physically to help the community," Ayuyu added.

She thanked Triple J for donating the bags for the relief goods.

Ogumoro also said she is very grateful for the partnership with the Rotarians. "We just have to all help each other to get through this crisis."

The Rotary Club of Saipan teams up with Karidat Social Services to hand out relief goods via drive-thru system on Monday at the San Jose pavilion. KRIZEL TUAZON

THINGS TO KNOW

As of May 11, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

Updated Government Resource listing

The CNMI government has issued an updated government resource listing as of May 11, 2020, which includes all government offices and agencies that are still operational and offering services to the public during the governor's public health emergency. See Page 10 of today's *Saipan Tribune*. For additional details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content-.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

Water service interruptions on Saipan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of Lower Dandan, As Lito, Fina Sisu, portions of As Perdido, and Koblerville tomorrow, Thursday, May 14, 2020, from 8:30am to 4pm.

The purpose of the emergency water service interruption is to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 6-inch waterline located on Exploring Drive on Airport Road in Dandan. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling by the area.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and cooperation throughout this water outage and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.corn/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 13, 1999

Fair wage act hurting local employees

Amid mounting calls for public hearing on the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act, a legislator urged administration officials to immediately resolve problems stalling its implementation in light of reports that some companies have used the law to terminate local employees. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes alleged that one company has started cutting back its local workforce ahead of the implementation of the controversial law—a charge denied by a company official. The senator said the termination shows "serious insensitivity to the equal treatment of employees," adding the government should bar the company from hiring foreign workers if it continues to discriminate against resident workers.

JAL to boost flights to CNMI

Japan Airlines will operate three charter flights from Fukuoka to Saipan in July 1999 as part of its ongoing promotional campaign and commitment to increase traffic this year. According to JAL, the airline's market share from the total number of Japanese tourists coming to the CNMI since January of this year has been over 50 percent. The increase in JAL's market share was primarily due to the reduction in service of Continental Micronesia and the use of smaller aircraft by Northwest Airlines.

MAY 13, 2004

NMC students clean Japanese jail

Since February this year, 40 Northern Marianas College students have been trooping to the Old Japanese Jail in central Garapan to clean up the deteriorating but valuable tourist site it. This past weekend, they finally finished the job. "It's a tough job but we did together," said Tony Diaz, one of the NMC students who participated in the cleanup. About 40 NMC students belonging to Current Issues class of NMC faculty Sam McPhetres presented their project accomplishment Tuesday afternoon. Diaz said they collected 200 bags of trash—a mix of residential and industrial garbage—from the site. These included empty cans and bottles of beers, industrial batteries, burned oil bottles, industrial banners, and sheet metals.

Garment sector leads NMI economy

The CNMI apparel industry leads the Northern Marianas' manufacturing industry by infusing $639 million into the economy and employing more than 16,000 workers that translate to millions of taxes, according to the first Census Bureau report on the island areas from the 2002 Economic Census. The 2002 Economic Census of Island Areas—Northern Marianas Islands, which was released yesterday, disclosed that manufacturing industries recorded the most sales amounting to $666 million and employed the most workers—16,941—in the Northern Mariana Islands. The report revealed that the apparel industry led the manufacturing sector with sales of $639 million and employed nearly 16,351 workers in 42 different establishments. The sector's total sales jumped from $147 million to $639 million in the last five years and an addition of 2,651 workers. There was also an addition of three more establishments since 1997, the report added.

MAY 13, 2005

Anatahan tremors diminish

The continuous low amplitude tremor on Anatahan island that began on May 10 and continued through Wednesday diminished even further, according to the latest joint report from the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Geological Survey. The report also said that satellite images showed the ash plume diminishing as well. "The ash is only moderately thick [and] now rises to only 8,000 feet," the report stated. The ash currently extends 200 nautical miles to the west-southwest of the island, with thinner ash extending further by another 150 nautical miles in a west-northwest direction.

Charges filed vs suspect in Tanapag killing

The Attorney General's Office has filed murder charges against the suspect in the killing of a poker attendant in Tanapag three years ago. Francisco Aguon Pua, 42, was charged with first-degree murder and robbery. Chief prosecutor Jeffrey Moots alleged that on May 22, 2002, Pua "did unlawfully kill Mostofa Faruk Parves with malice aforethought during the perpetration of robbery." Moots also stated that the defendant robbed 33-year-old Parves, a Bangladeshi national employed as attendant at Candi's Poker in Tanapag.

IPI working to beat deadline to rebury ancestral remains

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The entire construction team of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is working double time to rebury hundreds of ancestral remains that were dug up at the Garapan site, according Eric Poon, IPI's assistant vice president of construction.

In response to Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner Ramon Dela Cruz's inquiry at a recent CCC board meeting about the status of the ancestral remains, Poon said they recently sent some information to the commission, including the "architect and engineering" design of the project.

"We have our engineers looking at the design," said Poon, who acknowledged that the issue of the bones is sensitive to the indigenous community.

He said they have a deadline to complete the project, including a ceremony, this July.

Poon said they are hoping that the Historic Preservation Office, which has been assisting IPI in this project, will open soon because IPI has been calling and sending emails to them about it. The plan is for HPO and IPI to move the remains from one of IPI's warehouses in Lower Base back to the casino-resort site in Garapan, he said.

Poon said they need to confirm some items with HPO. One, he said, it was first agreed that the bones will be kept in a vault and placed in a pit that is 6 meters by 6 meters square. Now HPO is talking about possibly increasing the size of the pit to 8 meters by 8 meters square, Poon said. He said their A&E was submitted to HPO for review.

Joe Reyes, whose term as CCC commissioner had just expired, said at the meeting that he's embarrassed that his term has already expired but the remains are still not back at the site. "I compliment your team for taking the project right now," Reyes told Poon.

Car mows down 3-year-old child

On Sunday, May 10, 2020, at about 6:26pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a group of individuals causing a disturbance in progress in As Lito on Saipan. A police officer driving a personal vehicle was driving by and noticed the commotion, and immediately responded to the scene.

At the scene, the officer immediately noticed a group of individuals yelling at each other. The officer learned from the individuals that the disturbance started from an auto-pedestrian accident involving a 3-year-old that occurred just a few minutes earlier.

The officer learned that the 3-year-old was playing in the neighbor's yard with other kids when the homeowner's daughter was returning from the store. The 19-year-old driver noticed children playing in her parent's yard and waited for them to move away from the path of the vehicle before proceeding up the driveway. As the driver began driving forward, the kids began hitting the vehicle and yelling, "Stop!" As soon as the driver got out of the vehicle, they noticed an adult pulling a 3-year-old child from under the car. Both families began arguing right before the officer arrived at the scene.

The 3-year-old was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center emergency room where the child was treated and admitted for further treatment. The child is now reportedly in stable condition.

It was later found that the parents of the 3-year-old were visiting family in the area. The driver was issued one citation, consisting of two violations. This case continues to remains under investigation. The CNMI Department of Public Safety encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. ***(PR)***

SIS students mark National Poetry Month by meeting prominent poet

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Some students of Saipan International School recently got together in a virtual meeting with published poet Alicia Hogan Murphy in celebration of National Poetry Month.

Even in this time of social distancing, teachers and school children across the U.S. celebrated April as National Poetry Month and SIS elementary students joined in on the holiday in several ways, one of which was a visit from Murphy, who is also an American children's author.

According to SIS headmaster Ron Snyder, SIS elementary students and their parents joined together for a virtual visit on Google Meet with Murphy last week.

"Mrs. Murphy, a former elementary school teacher from the East Coast, shared some delightful poems from her book, *Bear Hugs and Sock Bugs*. She inspired SIS friends to remember that they are special and to embrace their uniqueness. With humor and warm acceptance, she took time to listen and respond to student comments and questions and shared the stories behind her poetry book, and behind her first published picture book, which is *The Muddy Foot Prince*," he said.

Snyder said the children and parents responded positively to her presentation and some families ordered copies of her books, which Murphy agreed to autograph.

"Mrs. Murphy told her new SIS fans a little bit about another book she is working on about an endearing character named Crabby Abby who often seems prone to misbehave. Murphy told the families of SIS that she really enjoyed meeting with them and the feeling was definitely reciprocated," Snyder said.

After meeting with SIS students, Snyder said Murphy expressed a willingness to share the program with any other elementary school whose administrators might be interested in having her present for their students and parents.

For more information about Murphy and her books, visit her website at http://www.aliciamurphy-books.com/home.html.

UOG secures $20M to expand coral research

David Burdick, a research associate at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, looks through the online database of the UOG Biorepository. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam has been awarded $20 million to expand its research capabilities on coral reef survival in rapidly changing environmental conditions.

The five-year grant is from the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, more commonly referred to as EPSCoR, and will considerably expand upon work undertaken during the previous five-year, $6 million Guam EPSCoR grant project, the Guam Ecosystems Collaboratorium.

"This is a major grant award, which not only validates and expands on the research work of Guam EPSCoR, our Marine Laboratory, and our partners, but it also further establishes the University of Guam as an emergent research institution in the Pacific region," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise.

Starting July 1, the new grant project— titled the Guam Ecosystems Collaboratorium for Corals and Oceans, or GECCO—will increase the collection, documentation, integration, and analyses of complex genetic and oceanographic data from reefs within the region. These research activities are necessary to understand the evolutionary and ecological processes that drive resilience in coral reefs under stress from climate change and other factors and could provide valuable insight into the development of viable management strategies.

Dr. Terry J. Donaldson, professor of ichthyology at the UOG Marine Laboratory and the principal investigator and project director, said the need for modern, cutting-edge studies on reef ecosystems is urgent.

"Island communities of the Western Pacific and all around the world depend on coral reef ecosystems, but the reefs are struggling to survive amid our rapidly changing climate," he said. "Guam has the nation's most diverse and complex coral reefs, so the UOG Marine Lab is the best place to do this research and inform how we can better protect this vital ecosystem."

The research team, led by Dr. Bastian Bentlage, assistant professor of bioinformatics at the Marine Lab, will collect and analyze genetic, genomic, oceanographic, and ecological data sets. New collections of marine biodiversity from the region will be curated, imaged, and mapped, and specimens—including cryo-preserved tissues for genomics research—stored in the UOG Biorepository, along with historical collections dating back more than 50 years. Specimens and field collection data will be digitized and posted in the biorepository's online-accessible database that was established during the Guam Ecosystems Collaboratorium, providing the scientific community with valuable resource for marine biodiversity research.

Mathematical models will use the data gathered to better predict changes in our reef ecosystems. To facilitate this ambitious research project, UOG's ability to conduct big-data analyses will be expanded by establishing a high-performance computing cluster on its campus and by strengthening its collaborative network with other research institutions.

The new grant will use cutting-edge instrumentation and innovative techniques, including:

- hyperspectral scanning to automate mapping of reef communities;
- DNA barcoding to facilitate identification of reef organisms, including coral microbiomes, and their role in the stress response of coral reefs;
- seascape genomics, integrating genomics, and oceanographic modeling to trace connectivity between coral reefs within the region; and
- micro-CT scanning techniques within the Biorepository to further the understanding of the morphology of marine organisms on reefs and promote a greater understanding of their taxonomic diversity.

Mildred Kelokelo, a graduate biology student at the University of Guam, documents a reef fish using equipment in the University of Guam Biorepository in 2019. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

"Coral reefs in the Marianas archipelago are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, and Guam represents the United States' only foothold in the region. This award provides researchers the opportunity to explore these coral reef systems and understand current biodiversity challenges concerning how they respond to climate change," said NSF EPSCoR program manager John-David Swanson. "In addition to improving infrastructure in the jurisdiction, this project aims to target underserved communities and develop innovative programs for STEM education and workforce development."

The grant will grow UOG's research capacity by funding new and visiting faculty positions and post-doctoral fellowships to conduct research, teach specialized courses at the university, and engage graduate and undergraduate students in research.

Beyond research, the GECCO project will develop innovative STEM education and community engagement programs—an effort that will led by Dr. Austin Shelton, assistant professor of extension and outreach—and collaborations within the national and international research communities, an effort that will be led by Dr. Rachael Leon Guerrero, vice provost for research and sponsored programs. ***(UOG)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Where have all the doctors gone?

Nothing better illustrates the divergent forces at work in crafting the nation's response to the coronavirus outbreak than how certain individuals have responded to COVID-19 exposure. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has recently embraced a form of self-quarantine because he came into contact with an individual who tested positive. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen M. Hahn and Dr. Robert Redfield of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have elected to self-quarantine for the same reason as well.

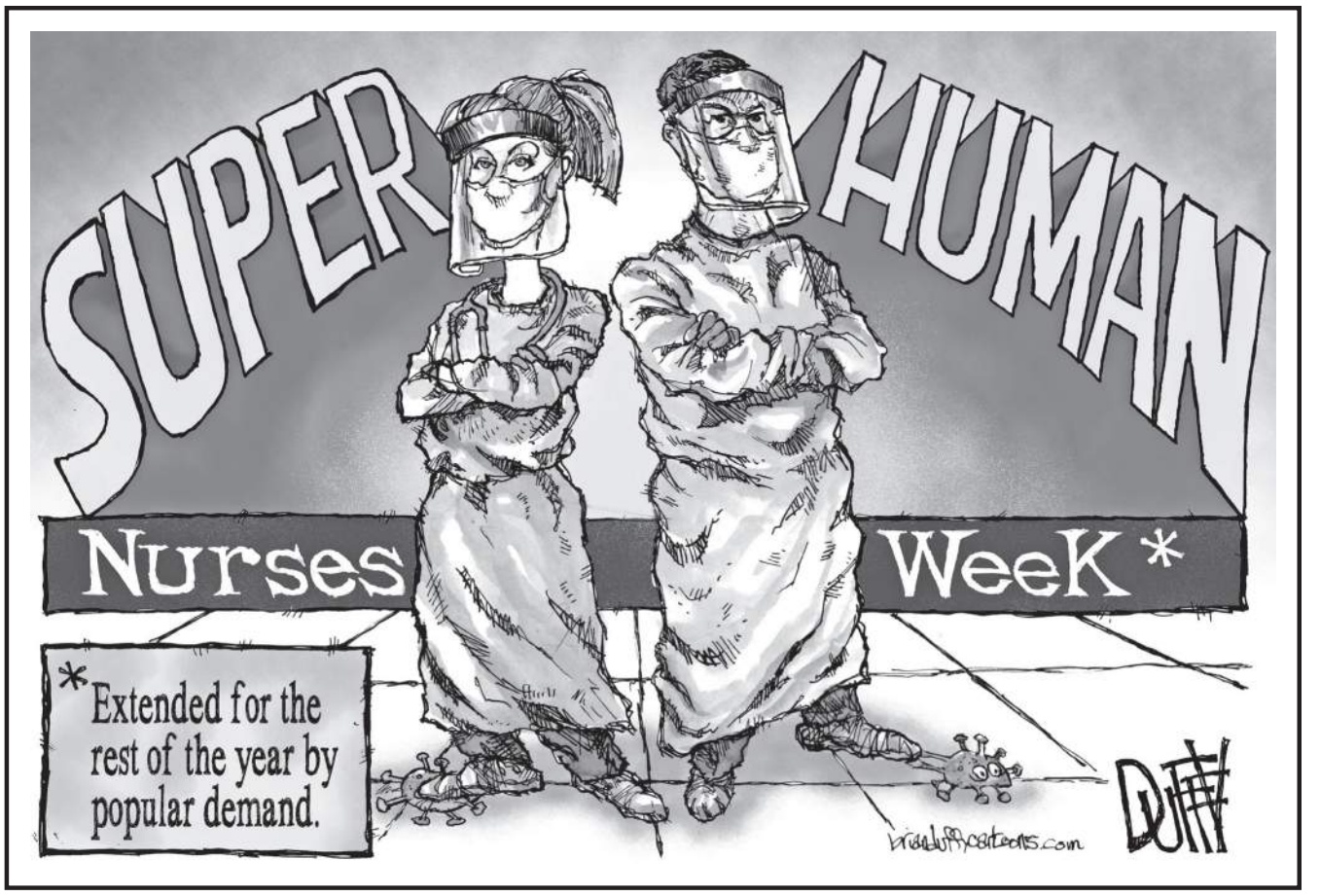
And what about Vice President Mike Pence, whose own press secretary was diagnosed Friday? He traveled to Iowa the same day to attend a public meeting with food industry executives during which neither he nor they wore masks. On Monday, he was apparently back at work in the White House, electing not to self-isolate as others have done in similar circumstances.

But whether or not Pence sets a good example to the public (he doesn't, obviously) is beside the point. Dr. Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, the high-profile medical experts on the White House's coronavirus task force, have been doing a pretty good imitation of working out of public view for the past two weeks through no fault of their own. Long gone are those daily briefings where one, or usually both, would provide the nation with their wise counsel. There have been no task force briefings, and President Donald Trump even briefly flirted with the idea of disbanding the group. The focus now is on loosening stay-at-home restrictions, and the physicians are likely perceived as wholly unhelpful to that cause. They might observe, for example, that some governors aren't following recommended best practices and moving too quickly to spur their floundering economies at a cost of thousands of American lives.

Or they might once again note that the United States doesn't have sufficient testing capability. Or that this sudden uptick in coronavirus exposure within the White House itself demonstrates the risk of transmission remains high under the tightest of security regimes; one of Trump's personal valets, in addition to Pence spokeswoman Katie Miller, tested positive. Or that the latest modeling suggests there will be 137,000 deaths by August as loosened restrictions cause the virus to transmit more widely. These are inconvenient facts for anyone who is more focused on restarting the nation's economy sufficiently to get himself reelected. How much easier to pursue a policy of open nail salons, gyms and dining rooms if one doesn't have to contemplate the human cost of that in the middle of the worst public health crisis in a century or so.

There's certainly nothing wrong with considering the ramifications of an extended lockdown including its cost to human health and longevity. These are not easy choices. In Maryland, for example, Gov. Larry Hogan may soon be announcing an easing of restrictions as hospitalization numbers have stabilized for nearly two weeks. But it would be

See DOCTORS on Next Page



Pandemic has exposed American exceptionalism as a mirage

By ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune News Service

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich is a professor of public policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and the author of The System: Who Rigged It, How We Fix It. *He blogs at www.robertreich.org.*

No other nation has endured as much death from COVID-19, nor nearly as a high a death rate, as has the United States.

With 4.25% of the world population, America has the tragic distinction of accounting for nearly 30% of pandemic deaths so far.

And it is the only advanced nation where the death rate is still climbing. Three thousand deaths per day are anticipated by June 1.

No other nation has loosened lockdowns and other social distancing measures with deaths increasing, as the U.S. is now doing.

No other advanced nation was as unprepared for the pandemic as was the U.S.

We now know Donald Trump and his administration were told by public health experts in mid-January that immediate action was required to stop the spread of COVID-19. But according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, "there was a lot of pushback." Trump didn't issue guidelines to stop the spread until March 16.

Epidemiologists estimate that 90% of the deaths in the U.S. from the first wave of COVID-19 might have been prevented had social distancing policies been put into effect two weeks earlier, on March 2.

No nation other than the U.S. has left it to subordinate units of government—states and cities—to buy ventilators and personal protective equipment. In no other nation have such subgovernments been forced to bid against each another.

In no other nation have experts in public health and emergency preparedness been pushed aside and replaced by political cronies like Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who in turn has been advised by Trump donors and Fox News celebrities.

In no other advanced nation has COVID-19 forced so many average citizens into poverty so quickly. The Urban Institute reports that more than 30% of American adults have had to reduce their spending on food.

Elsewhere around the world, governments are providing generous income support. Not in the U.S.

At best, Americans have received one-time checks for $1,200—about a week's worth of rent, groceries and utilities. Few are collecting unemployment benefits because unemployment offices are overwhelmed with claims.

The Payroll Protection Program approved by Congress has been a mess. Because funds have been distributed through financial institutions, banks have raked off money for themselves and rewarded their favored customers. Of the $349 billion originally intended for small businesses, $243.4 million has gone to large, publicly held companies.

Meanwhile, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve are bailing out big corporations from the debts they accumulated in recent years to buy back their shares of stock.

Why is America so different from other advanced nations facing the same coronavirus threat? Why has everything gone so tragically wrong?

Some of it is due to Trump and his hapless and corrupt collection of grifters, buffoons, sycophants, lobbyists and relatives.

But there are also deeper roots.

The coronavirus has been especially potent in the U.S. because America is the only industrialized nation lacking universal health care. Many families have been reluctant to see doctors or check into emergency rooms for fear of racking up large bills.

America is also the only one of 22 advanced nations failing to give all workers some form of paid sick leave. As a result, many American workers have remained on the job when they should have been home.

Adding to this is the skimpiness of unemployment benefits in America, which provide less support in the first year of unemployment than those in any other advanced country.

American workplaces are also more dangerous. Even before COVID-19 ripped through meatpacking plants and warehouses, fatality rates were higher among American workers than European workers.

Even before the pandemic robbed Americans of their jobs and incomes, average wage growth in the U.S. had lagged behind average wage growth in most other advanced countries. Since 1980, American workers' share of total national income has declined more than in any other rich nation.

In other nations, unions have long pushed for safer working conditions and higher wages. But American workers are far less unionized than workers in other advanced economies. Only 10.6% of American workers in both the public and private sectors belong to a union, compared with more than 26% in Canada, 37% in Italy, 67% in Sweden and 25% in Britain.

So who and what's to blame for the worst avoidable loss of life in American history?

Partly, Donald Trump's malfeasance. But the calamity is also due to America's longer-term failure to provide its people the basic support they need.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Even as coronavirus keeps us from churches, faith appears to be growing. Here's why

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

Of all the activities that help organize human life, the communal practice of religion is one of the most unifying.

But like public gatherings of almost every kind, religious services of every denomination and creed have all but disappeared, thanks to the coronavirus.

And while the "virtual" service has been sustaining people of faith during these difficult times, plenty of people feel spiritually isolated without the fellowship, foundation and accountability that group worship provides.

There's reason to wonder whether, when churches and other houses of worship reopen (some already are), if many of the faithful decide not to return—at first for safety, but eventually because they've simply lost the habit.

Add to that the almost universal suffering and despair created by the pandemic, and the circumstances seem ripe for a great falling away from faithfulness altogether.

Yet the opposite appears to be true.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that one-quarter of U.S. adults (24%) say their faith has become stronger because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Notably, that's 24% of U.S. adults overall—not just those who identified as being very religious before this all began.

That data is consistent with a Gallup survey which found that 19% of Americans said their faith or spirituality has gotten better as a result of the crisis.

In a separate survey conducted in March, Pew found that more than half of all U.S. adults have prayed for an end to the spread of coronavirus, including "some who say they seldom or never pray and people who say they do not belong to any religion (15% and 24%, respectively)."

And while about half of Americans say their faith hasn't changed much in the face of the global pandemic, only 2% in the Pew study say it has become weaker. Gallup had a similar result, at 3%.

That's an intriguing finding given that religion in America has been declining for decades, and accelerating in recent years.

There are complex and intertwined reasons for that—negative political associations, major church scandals, the decline of the family and the rise of secularism.

And whether causal or coincidental, the rise of the "nones"—people with no religious affiliation—has occurred concurrently with a breakdown of social cohesion.

Some of that can be attributed to younger generations who have not merely eschewed religious labels but filled the faith-shaped void with other (often rootless) endeavors to provide some sense of "meaning."

The pandemic has abruptly stripped many of those things away—work, routines, the frivolities of life—leaving us all to contemplate our role in the world and the purpose of our existence.

Perhaps that's part of the reason why 11% of adults who seldom or never attend religious services have found their faith is increasing in the wake of COVD-19; and why 7% of religiously unaffiliated Americans—included atheists and agnostics—now similarly find themselves drawn to faith.

There's probably another important factor at play in people's turn to faith: the failures of science.

While we will ultimately rely on medical treatment to manage the disease, there is no certainty that we will ever completely understand or effectively vaccinate against the coronavirus.

And the fluidity and ambiguity of seemingly every pandemic question (from whether masks can effectively prevent the spread to how the virus can be transmitted) has given pause to many people who have long insisted that science has all the answers all of the time.

Religion may not provide those answers, either. But it's clearly filling a void of something lost in our current crisis.

Perhaps that something is hope.

Cotton Masks For COVID-19 Times

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

The following is part of what the author calls his C.O.V.I.D. 14 series: Connolly Offers Vivid Image Dreams 14 lines

homemade cotton masks worn for COVID 19
muffled voices are heard in the supermarket
all the rage now some funny ones are seen
drive to the store put one on when you park it

businesses market masks on social media
sport team animals and birds appear daily
with enough logos to fill an encyclopedia
flowery prints parade across mouths gaily

I'm now wearing bandanas southwestern style
to go with cowboy hats: beaver, felt, and straw
a bandido going down the grocery store aisle
but no gunslinger, no guns quick on the draw

masked bandits use them to rob a bank or store
I can't wait until we wear virus masks no more.

The following is part of what the author calls his D.R.E.A.M.S (Dream: Reality Enigma Adenosine triphosphate Meaning) and T.O.A.S.T. series (Telling Old Age Sonnet Tales)

"Row row row your boat gently down the stream
Merrily merrily merrily merrily life is but a dream"

My Life is But a Dream

I'm much like an old horny toad
catching flies by the side of the road
from inside me I don't mind it
it's only me living behind it
if a car hits me I'll explode

I've often thought I was a homely old fool
enjoying self learning and teaching school
I could always find ways to entertain myself
with music dance and books off the shelf
and gladly wading into life's complex pool

I'm happy alive and well and giving life a bit of hell
enjoying sights sounds tastes touch and smell
there are challenges and compromise to be made
on Tinian and Las Vegas I'm dreaming in the shade
how when and where I'll wind up only time will tell

We also face a pandemic of racism

By LINDA WIGGINS-CHAVIS
Tribune News Service

Linda Wiggins-Chavis is a writer, activist, theologian and biochemist currently teaching middle school science. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by* Tribune News Service.

The onslaught of a global health pandemic COVID-19 has brought out the best in many of us and the worst in others. It has also exposed the ugly truths of racism, white privilege and white supremacy.

As our nation's leader continues to espouse divisive rhetoric that emboldens people to act out in aggressive ways, some Americans have sunk to a new low. Xenophobia against Asian Americans is on the rise. Health care disparities among African Americans have worsened during the pandemic due to systemic racism. Black and brown people are being disproportionately arrested for not properly following social distancing guidelines.

On May 1, when hundreds of white protesters, many of them armed with assault rifles, descended on Michigan's state capitol to oppose stay-at-home rules, President Donald Trump referred to them as "very good people"—reminiscent of his comments when violent white supremacists marched in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017.

Yet when unarmed Black Lives Matter protesters marched in response to police brutality, we were called thugs. Police have been caught on camera in gut-wrenching videos punching unarmed women and children in the face. In early May, Indianapolis police were recorded killing a young black man named Sean Reed (who appeared to be unarmed), and then laughing about it. In February, a father and son duo in Georgia were captured on video murdering Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed man who was simply out for a jog. A transgender woman was killed in Missouri on May 3 in what the Human Rights Campaign has called "a toxic mix of transphobia, racism and misogyny."

My heart is heavy from watching my people be murdered in cold blood. I cannot bring myself to watch some of the videos. Sometimes I cannot even bring myself to cry, because it happens so often that I am starting to become numb to the pain.

The list of unarmed black men, women and children senselessly killed for no other reason than pure hatred for the color of their skin goes on and on: Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Nina Pop, Botham Jean, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Oscar Grant, Jordan Davis, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, the Charleston Nine and countless others.

I have marched, I have cried, I have protested. I have been angry, raised my voice, held a candlelight vigil, organized a community forum, hosted radio talk shows and written articles, essays and papers.

And I am tired. Tired of the criminalization of brown skin. Tired of dirty looks because we wear our hair a certain way. Tired of being followed around in stores. Tired of people claiming that being against police brutality means being anti-police. Tired of people pretending that personal and systemic racism does not exist. Tired of white "victimhood."

I am tired, too, of the black community being economically and politically disenfranchised. Tired of people being complacent and complicit with racism. Tired of this country claiming "liberty and justice for all" in words rather than in actions. Tired of hearing the word n-----. And I am tired of black lives not mattering.

DOCTORS

From Page 8

absurd to imply that choice holds no risk. It does, and it needs to be weighed. Similarly, denying Dr. Fauci and other medical experts a place at the White House podium won't make the facts go away.

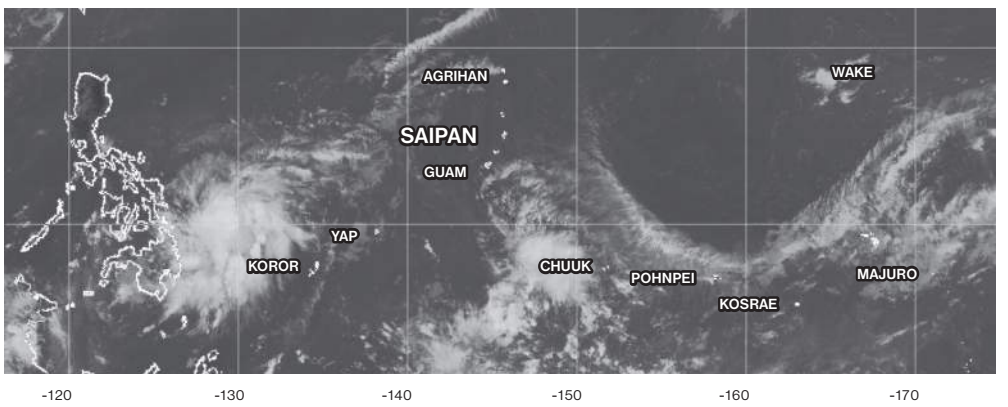
All we ask is one simple thing: Put the doctors back on the front line. Americans will surely settle for a Zoom chat to accommodate the self-quarantines. Stop soft-selling us on infection rates and deaths. There are tough choices ahead, but they don't become any easier if we stop paying attention to the public health experts and listen only to the bean counters. The good news is that there's been some success in bending the infection curve; now is not the time to abandon a strategy that works merely because some of the president's most clamorous supporters are protesting restrictions.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
90º 79º	90º 79º	90º 79º	90º 79º	90º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:14 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows a plume of showers and thunderstorms south of Guam extending farther southward into western Chuuk State. A few bands of thick cirrus frame the Marianas to the southwest and northeast while only a few low-level clouds pass through the region. Buoys show seas hovering between 5 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	86° / 61°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	57° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	95° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Showers	80° / 74°
New York	Sunny	62° / 45°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	85° / 60°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 50°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 55°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	67° / 48°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:58 AM	-
Thursday	12:15 AM	11:52 AM	-
Friday	12:59 AM	12:43 PM	-
Saturday	1:39 AM	1:32 PM	-
Sunday	2:17 AM	2:19 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:25 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
7:04 AM	LOW TIDE	1.35
10:58 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.65
6:39 PM	LOW TIDE	0.07

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1 (MAY 11, 2020)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- ***Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/ redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Department of Labor
- ***Assistance with Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) programs call:***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 670-989-9090 / 9084 / 9081 / 9089 / 9083 / 9080
  Email: info@puamarianas.com
  Website: marianaslabor.net

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from*
  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net

Department of Public Works
- ***Administrative Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 235-9570 / 5818
- ***Building Safety Code Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-2726 / 2296
- ***Energy Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- ***Technical Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
- ***Roads and Grounds Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 322-9498
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745

Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
- ***Division of Land Registration***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9987
- ***Division of Agriculture***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 256-3320
- ***Division of Fish & Wildlife***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-6000

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 2 (MAY 11, 2020)

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***ALL OTHER DIVISIONS (Except Customs)***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- Cashier Window
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54
  For Appointments Call (670) 234-3751 or email dpl@dpl.gov.

Saipan Zoning Office
- *Available via phone only*
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
  Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500 / 7600

Department of Public Safety
- ***Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV)***
  - ***Document Drop-Off For Vehicle / Watercraft Registration Renewal***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9068
  - ***Document Drop-Off / Pick-up Drivers License***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9066
- ***Firearms and Records***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (For Walk-Ins)
  Tel: (670) 664-9072
- ***Highway Safety Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9121 / 9125 / 9131

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- ***Fire Enforcement Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9178

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 488-0220 / 0440
  Email: 0550glenna.reyes@gov.mp

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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Business

Enterprise Rent-A-Car vows 'Complete Clean Pledge'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Enterprise Rent-A-Car worldwide recently committed to "Complete Clean Pledge" which expanded its cleaning procedures to assure its customers that the company is in tune with the times and that their health and safety are the company's priority.

According to Emir Abuan, director of Business Development, they modified their cleaning procedures that take place between every rental using recommendations from various health authorities. "Clean vehicles have always been important to us and at this moment in time, we know vehicle cleanliness is even more critical…on top of vacuuming and general wipe-down cleaning, we are sanitizing with disinfectant key areas interior and exterior between every rental," he said.

He added that these include "key and key fob, center console, cupholders and compartments, seat surfaces and pockets, areas between seat/console and seat/doorjambs, dashboard, instrument panels, steering wheel and column, accessory panel, door interiors and pockets, door handles (interior and exterior), mirrors and other high-touch areas. We also have measures in place to immediately isolate and quarantine any vehicle if needed."

For more information, call (670)288-4400 or(670)288-8338.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is a tri-brand rental company that also handles National and Alamo. "National and Alamo Rent-A-Car started doing business on Saipan in 2004 and we started our tri-brand when Enterprise acquired National and Alamo in 2016… all three brands offer a high standard of customer service and reliability, which is what travelers look for when planning their trips," Abuan said.

CONTIBUTED PHOTO
Enterprise Rent-A-Car together with National and Alamo brands are open Monday to Sunday from 6am to 6pm.

"Our Alamo brand is more focused toward family travel and the budget-conscious leisure traveler, National is targeting those government and corporate accounts, while the Enterprise brand caters to adventure-seekers and road-trip lovers. All three brands offer a diverse selection of vehicles that would fit any of our customers' needs," Abuan added.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car believes that they do not only cater to tourists but to CNMI residents as well. "We are open to meet critical transportation and personal mobility needs. Transportation and mobility are crucial now more than ever and we intend to help where we are needed so our communities can come out of this crisis. Many people who work in essential industries require a reliable mode of transportation and we are here to meet that need while adhering to the highest standards of cleaning and social distancing,"Abuan said

"Most rented vehicles are the sedans, SUVs, and convertibles for the tourists and we have competitive prices that fluctuate with seasons and consumer demand… our current promo rate is $14.99 /day for weekend (Friday-Sunday) and $24.99/day for weekdays (Monday-Thursday) and we also have discounted rate for long term rentals," Abuan added.

Enterprise, Alamo and National Rent-A-Car is open every day from 6am to 6pm. For more information, call (670) 288-4400 or(670) 288-8338. Also check their Facebook page: Enterpise Rent-A-Car Saipan and website https://saipan.national-carpacific.com.

United Airlines announces updated flight schedules

GUAM—United Airlines announced the updated flight schedules for Guam, Saipan, Palau, and Micronesia from May through July 5, 2020.

At a time when demand for travel is quite low due to the COVID-19 global outbreak and strict travel restrictions remain in place in the islands, United is carefully adjusting flights in the region. United will be operating an estimated 85% fewer flights in May and June 2020 compared to the same period last year.

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Airport Operations for Asia-Pacific said, "As the islands slowly reopen, United will continue to support its customers and the community by trying to maintain lifeline connections. While we see that travel in the months ahead and into late summer might be slow, United looks forward to welcoming our customers back and providing a safe and comfortable travel experience."

United also provided updates for the following routes:

■ Tokyo/Narita: Two of the three daily flights from Guam have been suspended until further notice – UA 828/ UA 827 and UA 873/ UA 874.

■ Nagoya and Osaka: Suspended until further notice.

■ Fukuoka: Suspended until October 24, 2020.

■ Manila: Suspended until further notice, including the Manila to Koror segment.

With current COVID-19 travel restrictions in place, flight schedules are subject to change without advance notice. Customers are encouraged to check united.com for the latest flight schedule.

Flexibility to change flight bookings

Given the high level of uncertainty regarding travel, United is working to give customers more flexibility by waiving change fees for any booking – domestic or international – through May 31 for any travel they have booked through the end of the year. For more information visit https://www.united.com/ual/en/us/fly/travel/notices.html. What United is doing to keep customers and employees safe

The safety of our customers and employees is and always will be our top priority, and we have implemented strict policies to keep our customers and employees safe.

Staying updated:

Because the impact of the coronavirus outbreak continues to evolve rapidly, our teams are in daily contact with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), government agencies and other global health organizations to share the most up-to-the-minute information. We also have a team of in-house medical experts, including an industrial hygienist who reviews and tests cleaning products, and a corporate medical team who are on-call, around the clock to assist with employee and customer health inquiries.

Aircraft cleaning:

All aircraft are cleaned at a variety of touchpoints throughout the day. The cleaning procedure for flights includes a thorough wipe-down of all hard surfaces touched by customers and employees—lavatories, galleys, tray tables, window shades, and armrests. Our teams use an effective, high-grade disinfectant and multi-purpose cleaner.

When we are advised by the CDC or local health authorities of an employee or customer who has traveled onboard and who is exhibiting coronavirus symptoms, that aircraft is taken out of service and sent through a full decontamination process that includes our standard cleaning procedures plus washing ceilings and overhead bins and scrubbing the interior.

United's mainline aircraft are equipped with state-of-the-art circulation systems, similar to those found in hospitals, which use a high-efficiency (HEPA) filter to circulate the air and remove up to 99.7% of airborne particles.

Guam (GUM) – Honolulu, Hawaii (HNL)

Airport (from/to)		Flight No.	Frequency	Aircraft
Guam	Honolulu	UA 200	Daily	B777
Honolulu	Guam	UA 201	Daily	B777

Guam (GUM) – Narita, Japan (NRT)

Airport (from/to)		Flight No.	Frequency	Aircraft
Guam	Narita	UA196	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays	B737
Narita	Guam	UA197	Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays	B737

Guam (GUM) – Saipan (SPN)

Airport (from/to)		Flight No.	Frequency	Aircraft
Guam	Saipan	UA 174	Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays	B737
Saipan	Guam	UA 117	Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays	B737

Guam (GUM) – Koror, Palau (ROR) *

Airport (from/to)		Flight No.	Operation dates	Aircraft
Guam	Koror	UA 157	June 11, and June 25 (Thursdays)	B737
Koror	Guam	UA 158	May 22, June 12, and June 26 (Fridays)	B737

Remark (*) – The service is subject to Republic of Palau's government quarantine restriction.

Guam (GUM) – Yap (YAP)*

Airport (from/to)		Flight No.	Operation dates	Aircraft
Guam	Yap	UA 185	May 17, June 14, and June 28	B737
Yap	Guam	UA 186	May 17, June 14, and June 28	B737

Island Hopper*

Airport (from/to)		Flight No.	Operation dates	Aircraft
Guam	Honolulu	UA 155*	May 20 and June 17	B737
Honolulu	Guam	UA 154*	May 21 and June 18	B737
Guam	Pohnpei	UA176*	June 6, and June 27	B737
Pohnpei	Chuuk	UA 95*	June 7, and June 28	B737
Chuuk	Guam	UA 95*	June 7, and June 28	B737

Remark (*) – The service is subject to Republic of the Marshall Islands' and Federated States of Micronesia's quarantine restrictions.

In flight:

Limiting person-to-person contact and contamination are paramount to what we do. We have implemented onboard procedures to minimize risks, including:

■ Effective April 24, all flight attendants have started to wear face masks while on duty. We are the first major U.S. airline to implement such a requirement, which further demonstrates our commitment to the safety of our customers and flight attendants.

■ Effective May 4, all travelers are required to wear a facial covering on board. We encourage customers to bring their own face coverings, but our customer service agents will be able to provide them if they don't have one when boarding our aircraft.

■ We have stopped refilling used cups and glasses in all cabins. If a customer requests a refill, our flight attendants will provide a new cup or glass.

■ Customers may now see flight attendants wearing gloves during food and beverage service as well as during pickup, in all cabins.

■ Our flight attendants will hand all beverages directly to the customer, instead of allowing the customer to take their own from the tray.

■ All tableware, dishes, cutlery, carts, and glassware are washed and sanitized.

■ We have added supplies where circumstances warrant for our crews such as gloves, masks, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, sani-com wipes, foaming hand soap, and disinfectant wipes as supply becomes available.

■ We will be doing more to promote social distancing such as restricting advanced seat selection for adjacent seats and will be boarding fewer customers at a time during the COVID-19 outbreak.

United invites customers to visit the hub.united.com website to learn more about how the company is taking extensive measures to safeguard the health and safety of its employees and passengers.

Shinohara added, "We understand that our customers may have some concerns about traveling again, which is why it's important that they understand United's commitment to keeping customers and employees safe from before takeoff to after landing."

About United

United's shared purpose is "Connecting People. Uniting the World." For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter and Instagram or connect on Facebook. The common stock of United's parent, United Airlines Holdings, Inc., is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol "UAL." ***(PR)***

Nation

Trump faces virus at White House amid push to 'reopen' US

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump insisted Monday his administration has "met the moment" and "prevailed" on coronavirus testing, even as the White House itself became a potent symbol of the risk facing Americans everywhere by belatedly ordering everyone who enters the West Wing to wear a mask.

Trump addressed a Rose Garden audience filled with mask-wearing administration officials, some appearing publicly with face coverings for the first time during the outbreak, after two aides tested positive for COVID-19 late last week. The startling sight served only to further highlight the challenge the president faces in instilling confidence in a nation still reeling from the pandemic.

Trump himself, not wearing a mask, sought to emphasize to the American people the steps being taken to ensure their safety—in hopes that will coax them to resume normal activities.

Shortage of coronavirus testing has long been a sore spot for the president, but he insisted anew that everyone who wants a test can get one. The pledge, first issued by Trump more than two months ago, comes as governors across the country continue to call on the federal government to do more to boost supply to meet the requirements needed to begin "reopening" the nation.

The upbeat message was undercut by the new protective measures implemented to keep Trump safe, evidenced by the absence of Vice President Mike Pence and three of the nation's top medical experts, who were in various states of isolation after two cases of COVID-19 were confirmed among staffers in one of the most-protected complexes in America.

A memo to staff Monday directed "everyone who enters the West Wing to wear a mask or facial covering." Staff will be allowed to remove their face coverings if they sit at least six feet apart from their colleagues. The directive apparently doesn't apply to the president.

Monday's briefing was meant to highlight the availability of COVID-19 testing as the White House seeks to convince Americans the country is safely reopening.

"They should all be able to get a test right now," Trump said, even though experts say there is no capacity for testing on that scale. Officials later clarified that "everybody who needs a test can get a test."

Only on Monday did the administration believe it had enough tests to mount a nationwide testing campaign to address significant death rates in nursing homes and other senior care facilities. On a call with governors, Pence and Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coordinator for the virus response, recommended that every nursing home occupant and staffer be tested for COVID-19 in the next two weeks, with vigilant monitoring going forward, especially of staff.

Pence led the weekly call with governors from an isolated room, after his press secretary tested positive Friday. Birx and other staffers participated as usual from a conference room in the Situation Room, Pence said, explaining the "slightly different circumstance."

"We are taking the appropriate countermeasures to protect the president's health," Pence added, according to a recording obtained by the AP. The White House was moving to daily testing of some staff members to detect the disease.

The stepped-up protective measures comes as Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Stephen Hahn, were all quarantining after exposure to the White House staffer.

The three experts are scheduled to testify before a Senate panel Tuesday on "Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School." However, they, along with committee chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., will all participate remotely. Alexander is quarantining after a staff member of his own tested positive for COVID-19.

AP

President Donald Trump listens during a briefing about the coronavirus in the Rose Garden of the White House, Monday, May 11, 2020, in Washington.

Object lesson on a fickle virus frames hearing on reopening

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nobody planned it this way, but a Senate hearing on reopening workplaces and schools safely is turning into a teaching moment on the fickle nature of the coronavirus outbreak.

Senior health officials scheduled to testify in person before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee on Tuesday will instead appear via video link after going into self-quarantine, following their exposure to a White House staffer who tested positive for COVID-19. The chairman of the committee, Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, also put himself in quarantine after an aide tested positive. He'll participate by video, too.

Even before the gavel drops, the hearing offers two takeaways for the rest of the country, said John Auerbach, president of the nonprofit public health group Trust for America's Health.

"One thing it tells you is that the virus can have an impact in any workplace setting or any community setting," said Auerbach. "All businesses will find it very challenging to ensure safety when there are cases."

Another lesson is that the public officials involved are taking the virus seriously by not appearing in person. "They are following the guidelines that they are recommending to others," said Auerbach. "There is not a double standard."

Appearing by video link before the committee will be Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, considered the government's leading authority on infectious diseases, and FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn and Dr. Robert Redfield, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The three are in self-quarantine. They will be joined by Adm. Brett Giroir, the coronavirus "testing czar" at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The main questions for the administration experts revolve around the "Three T's," or testing, tracing and treatment. Without widespread testing, state and local officials will be basing decisions to reopen businesses and schools on incomplete data with blind spots lurking. Without the ability to do the painstaking work of tracing the contacts of people infected, unwitting transmission will continue. Without effective treatments, hospitals in a given community could be overwhelmed in a COVID-19 rebound. Ultimately, the goal is a vaccine that would offer widespread protection.

It's all a colossal work in progress, moving in fits and starts.

The health committee hearing offers a very different setting from the White House coronavirus task force briefings the administration witnesses have all participated in. Senators on the panel are knowledgeable and some have working relationships that go back years with the agencies that the panelists are representing. Most significantly, President Donald Trump will not be controlling the agenda.

White House recommends tests for all nursing home residents

WASHINGTON (AP)—With deaths mounting at the nation's nursing homes, the White House strongly recommended to governors Monday that all residents and staff at such facilities be tested for the coronavirus in the next two weeks.

Why the government is not ordering testing at the nation's more than 15,000 nursing homes was unclear. Nor was it clear why it is being recommended now, more than two months after the nation's first major outbreak at a nursing home outside of Seattle that eventually killed 45 people.

Vice President Mike Pence, who leads the White House coronavirus task force, told governors on a video conference call that it's the federal government's strong recommendation that such testing be done.

"We really believe that all 1 million nursing home residents need to be tested within next two weeks as well as the staff," added Dr. Deborah Birx, the task force coordinator, according to a recording of the call obtained by The Associated Press.

President Trump has repeatedly said there have been plenty of testing kits and has shifted blame to governors for reacting too slowly on testing, a charge he repeated in a Rose Garden news conference later Monday.

"Frankly, some of the governors were very lax with respect to nursing homes. It was obvious right from the beginning," Trump said, referring to the Washington state outbreak.

Asked why testing was recommended, not ordered, Trump said: "I would certainly consider that. I will mandate it if you'd like."

More than 27,000 residents and staff have died from outbreaks of the virus at the nation's nursing homes and long-term care facilities, according to an AP tally based on state health departments and media reports. That is about a third of all 80,000 deaths in the U.S. that have been attributed to the virus.

Nursing home operators have said the lack of testing kits has left them nearly powerless to stop the virus from entering their facilities because they haven't been able to identity silent spreaders not showing symptoms.

The American Health Care Association, the main nursing home trade group, welcomed the new testing recommendation but said the federal government needed to do more to make that possible, including allocating billions of additional dollars to the effort.

Charlene Harrington, a professor emeritus of nursing at the University of California, San Francisco, said nursing homes should have been prioritized from the start given their vulnerable populations and questioned why the testing recommendation is only happening now.

Asia

PH lockdown to be eased, with caution

AP

A health worker waits at a COVID-19 testing center at the Palacio de Manila during an enhanced community quarantine to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus on Monday, May 11, 2020 in Manila, Philippines.

BANGKOK (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said the massive lockdown that has restricted millions to their homes will be eased, but he warned that people who want to return to work must follow safeguards to avoid more deaths and a second wave of COVID-19 outbreaks.

The Philippine economy contracted in the first quarter and the finance secretary reported that up to 1.5 million jobs have been lost during the lockdown on Luzon island, the country's most populous region and which includes the capital, Manila.

Duterte made the announcement in videotaped remarks shown on nationwide TV on Tuesday. He said his spokesman will later disclose which regions will remain under lockdown and which areas would be released from it based on the scale and speed of infections. The two-month lockdown was supposed to last until May 15.

"Don't gamble with COVID," Duterte said.

The Philippines has reported more than 11,000 infections, including 726 deaths.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

CHINA HAS ONE NEW CASE: China reported just one new coronavirus case, as the government presses ahead with reopening measures. Some students in Beijing have returned, and Shanghai Disneyland and the ancient Forbidden City have reopened to limited visitors with social distancing maintained. Also Tuesday, the National Health Commission said 115 people remain in treatment. Tuesday's single new case follows double-digit increases over the previous two days that had set off renewed warnings from officials for citizens not to become overconfident and prompted the suspension of train service to one affected county in the northeastern province of Jilin.

TESTING SEOUL CLUBGOERS: South Korea has reported 27 new cases as health workers work to test thousands of people who visited nightspots in Seoul after detecting dozens of infections linked to clubgoers. Figures released by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday brought national figures to 10,936 cases and 258 deaths. Clubs in the capital region have been closed again after the outbreak, and the reopening of schools was pushed to May 20. Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon said more than 7,200 people have been tested since the city requested recent visitors to the Itaewon entertainment district get COVID-19 tests.

NEW SOUTH WALES HAS NO NEW CASES: Prime Minister Scott Morrison says Australia is winning the battle against the coronavirus but that it "still has the great potential to do enormous harm to the livelihoods of Australians." New South Wales, the most populous state, recorded no new cases of coronavirus for the first time since health authorities began documenting them in February. Australia has recorded nearly 7,000 cases, with fewer than 770 active, and 97 deaths. Australian states and territories will start easing restrictions in coming months. The initial phase will allow restaurants and shops to reopen and allow outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people. Social distancing and hygiene measures will be retained.

NO NEW CASES IN NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand reported no new cases of the virus Tuesday, the third day since early last week it has not added cases, as it prepared to relax many of its restrictions. Most businesses, including retail stores, malls, restaurants and gyms, can reopen from Thursday and schools will reopen Monday. Bars can start serving customers again from May 21. Social distancing rules will still apply and social gatherings will be limited to 10 people.

World

AFTER 2-MONTH SLUMBER

Paris awakens slowly to world it lost

PARIS (AP)—After a two-month freeze, Paris slowly awakened on Monday to the world it had lost under lockdown as hairdressers, florists, nail salons and some other businesses reopened - but under mandatory social distancing requirements.

Like a just-awakened sleeping beauty, the City of Light needed to rub its eyes on the first day of relaxed home confinement rules. Shopkeepers trying to recover losses may need to wait days for Parisians to rediscover the daily habits from before the coronavirus halted most public life.

"It's a bit an act of faith today," said Edouard Lefebvre, who heads the business district on the Champs-Elysees Avenue, packed with crowds of locals and foreign tourists in normal times.

Only half of the avenue's shops were open Monday, Lefebvre said, reflecting the extensive preparations needed to safely receive customers and the hesitant steps many people took toward pre-pandemic routines.

"Clients won't come back in day one. It takes time to get used to coming back to the Champs-Elysees, to come back to Paris," Lefebvre said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Vehicles began filling streets again, but there were no traffic jams reported, and numerous people used bicycles to get around.

Restaurants and bars - at the heart of France's proverbial joie de vivre - are still waiting to learn when they will be back in business and cafe life can resume under the French government's phased-in lifting of restrictions it imposed to stem the country's coronavirus outbreak.

Some Parisians couldn't resist the temptations of their newly-recovered freedom, and conviviality was accompanied by wine or beer. As the sun set over the picturesque Canal Saint Martin, youths gathered for conversation, standing shoulder-to-shoulder or sitting knee-to-knee on the ground,—until police moved in with a megaphone to disburse the crowd. The Paris police chief later issued a ban on consumption of alcoholic drinks along the banks of the Seine river, saying he "deplored" having to take action to ensure distancing on the first day of de-confinement.

France was hit hard by COVID-19, recording more than 26,600 virus-related deaths as of Monday night. The virus still is circulating. Authorities, trying to strike a balance between public health and boosting the economy as cases plateaued, reopened numerous sectors around the country. They will reassess the situation in three weeks, wary of a second wave.

Parisians grown used to hearing birds and smelling clean air from windows during lockdown may find some aspects of deconfinement unpleasant, like motorists honking their horns and the heavy equipment at the capital's thousands of construction sites, a source of inconvenient detours and noise that drowns out the sounds of nature.

UN says 7 or 8 `top' candidates for a COVID-19 vaccine exist

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The World Health Organization chief said Monday there are around seven or eight "top" candidates for a vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus and work on them is being accelerated.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a U.N. Economic and Social Council video briefing the original thinking two months ago was that it may take 12 to 18 months for a vaccine. But he said an accelerated effort is under way, helped by 7.4 billion euros ($8 billion) pledged a week ago by leaders from 40 countries, organizations and banks for research, treatment and testing.

He said the $8 billion will not be enough, and additional funds will be needed to speed up the development of a vaccine, but more importantly to produce enough "to make sure that this vaccine reaches everyone—(and) there's no one be left behind."

"We have good candidates now," Tedros said. "The top ones are around seven, eight. But we have more than a hundred candidates."

"We are focusing on the few candidates we have which can bring probably better results and accelerating those candidates with better potential," he said.

Tedros did not identify the top candidates.

Since January, he said, "WHO has been working with thousands of researchers all over the world to accelerate and track vaccine development from developing animal models to clinical trial designs and everything in between."

Tedros said there is also a consortium of more than 400 scientists involved in vaccine development and diagnostics.

The WHO chief stressed that COVID-19 is "very contagious and it's a killer," with over 4 million cases now reported to WHO and almost 275,000 lives lost.

While new cases are declining in Western Europe, they are increasing in Eastern Europe, Africa, southeast Asia, the eastern Mediterranean and other regions, he said.

Tedros said "the pandemic is teaching us many painful lessons," especially the importance of having strong national and regional health systems.

"And yet on current trends, more than 5 billion people will not access these essential services by 2030"—the ability to see a health worker, access essential medicine, and have running water in hospitals, he said.

He stressed that as the response to COVID-19 continues, nations must also lay the foundations for a healthy, safer and fairer world.

"The world spends around $7.5 trillion on health care each year, almost 10 percent of global GDP, but the best investments are in promoting health and in preventing disease at the primary health care level which will save lives and save money," Tedros said.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told the briefing that all nations are "in it together" but the immediate priority must be the most vulnerable countries and communities.

She called for a new debt relief program for vulnerable countries so their economies can recover.

And she said measures to protect and stimulate the economy, from cash transfers to credits and loans must be targeted at women "who make up the majority of those in the hardest-hit informal economy, and who are at the forefront of the community response."

Good Housekeeping

Pork chops are served with a roasted red pepper and feta cheese relish, plus a side of sauteed greens, on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

TNS

Learning to cook smaller meals, until the family can be together again

By JEANMARIE BROWNSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

For our Sunday dinner this week, it'll be just the two of us. Again. It's been more than a month of dinners for two.

I prefer to cook for 10. Seriously. I look forward to a house full of happy eaters. We are ready. Soon, we hope.

Until then, I keep working on my skills, challenging myself to cook more efficiently with ingredients on hand. Be more flexible with substitutions. Make fewer dirty dishes and waste. Cook less food.

Fond memories of partying with extended family members and out-of-town guests in Chicago's Greektown inspires this menu. No flaming saganaki, the famous cheese appetizer invented there, but plenty of delicious vegetable-based side dishes to accompany lemon and oregano marinated pork chops.

A ridged grill pan or the outdoor grill adds char to the meat and the delicious taste of better days ahead. When I can find them, I use fancy loin chops with the bones cleaned (frenched, is the term) for a beautiful presentation. However, this bright, herbaceous marinade works just as well with boneless chops, chicken breasts, lamb chops and thick fish steaks. If you have frozen raw shrimp, thaw it before marinating for 30 minutes and then stir-fry the shrimp right in the marinade over high heat.

But what really calls me to the kitchen is the dips and spreads we order at local restaurants. Mounds of creamy fish roe dip, roasted eggplant spread and red pepper blended with feta, mopped up with slabs of sesame seed-crusted bread, and washed down with rosé wine, fill us to the brim before the main course arrives.

Melitzanosalata, a chunky and garlicky eggplant concoction, single-handedly turned our family into eggplant fans. Likewise, feta lovers emerged from orders of tirokafteri, a slightly spicy dip enlivened with rich red peppers and olive oil. Tzatziki, that creamy yogurt and cucumber dip served with gyros, comes together quickly and adds freshness to meats and salads.

Supermarkets may not have all the ingredients in stock during these difficult times. Feel free to fill in with one of the substitutions.

I intentionally cook enough of these favorites to have leftovers for other meals. Stir either relish into warm cooked pasta or rice. Scrambled eggs topped with the red pepper dip prove amazing; try it as a bread spread for grilled cheese sandwiches. Make open face toast with a thick spread of the eggplant mixture and top it with sliced avocado or shreds of roast chicken. Pile leftover pork, thinly sliced, on a salad or tucked in a pita drizzled with tzatziki.

Save the recipes. They all double nicely for the entertaining days surely coming in the near future.

GARLICKY EGGPLANT SALAD (MELITZANASALATA)

- **Prep:** 10 minutes
- **Cook:** 25 minutes
- **Makes:** about 2 1/2 cups
- 1 large eggplant, about 1 1/2 pounds
- Olive oil, about 6 tablespoons total
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 small cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar or to taste
- 1/4 of a yellow, orange or green pepper, finely diced
- 8 cherry tomatoes, quartered
- Chopped fresh parsley

1 Heat broiler to low. If possible, position rack so eggplant will be at least 8 inches below the heat source.

2 Cut eggplant lengthwise in half. Place cut side up on a parchment or foil-lined baking sheet. Brush each cut side with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Sprinkle generously with salt. Broil until cut side of eggplant is richly browned, 15 to 20 minutes. Flip and broil to soften the skin side, about 5 minutes. (If you can't adjust oven racks to be 8 inches below the broiler, then reduce cooking time and watch so eggplant doesn't burn.)

3 Let eggplant cool until you can handle it—but work with it warm. Decide if you want the skin—it is delicious to me, especially when finely chopped. Cut eggplant into large chunks and transfer to a food processor. Use on/off pulses to make a coarse mash. (Alternatively, use a large knife on a cutting board and finely chop the eggplant.) Add garlic, 3 or 4 tablespoons olive oil, the vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Pulse once or twice to mix gently.

4 Transfer to a serving bowl. Garnish with the diced pepper, the tomato quarters and the parsley. Drizzle top with 1 tablespoon oil. Let sit 20 minutes before serving.

Nutrition information per 1/4 cup serving: 90 calories, 8 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 4 g carbohydrates, 2 g sugar, 1 g protein, 118 mg sodium, 2 g fiber

SEARED PORK CHOPS WITH RED PEPPER RELISH

- **Prep:** 15 minutes
- **Marinate:** 1 hour or more
- **Cook:** 12 minutes
- **Makes:** 4 servings

This recipe calls for 4 chops, so you'll have leftovers for subsequent meals. You could use 1/2 cup Italian salad dressing here in place of the marinade ingredients, but select one that has very little sugar. You can grill the chops on a grill directly over the heat source for 7 minutes; then flip and finish grilling until nearly firm when pressed, 4 to 5 more minutes.

- 4 frenched, bone-in, center-cut pork loin chops, each about 1 inch thick and weighing 8 to 10 ounces each
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Grated zest and juice of 1 large lemon
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1/2 teaspoon each: black pepper, thyme
- Red pepper and cheese relish, see recipe
- Parsley sprigs, lemon wedges

1 Pat chops dry. Mix oil, lemon zest and juice, garlic, oregano, salt, pepper and thyme in a shallow dish large enough to hold the chops in a single layer. Add chops and turn to coat all sides with marinade. Cover and refrigerate for several hours (or up to 8 hours).

2 Heat oven to 400 degrees convection or 425 degrees conventional. Meanwhile, let chops come to room temperature, about 20 minutes.

3 Heat a well-seasoned ridged grill pan, large nonstick skillet or well-seasoned cast-iron skillet over medium heat until a drop of water sizzles on contact. Use tongs to add chops (with the oil that clings to them) in a single, uncrowded layer. Let cook, without turning, until deeply golden on the bottom, about 4 minutes. Flip chops and slide the pan into the hot oven. Cook, without turning, until center of chop is slightly firm (but not hard) when pressed, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from oven.

4 Serve chops topped with a generous dollop of the red pepper relish. Garnish with parsley and lemon wedges.

Nutrition information per serving: 378 calories, 29 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 89 mg cholesterol, 0 g carbohydrates, 0 g sugar, 28 g protein, 135 mg sodium, 0 g fiber

RED PEPPER AND CHEESE RELISH (TIROKAFTERI)

- **Prep:** 15 minutes
- **Cook:** 30 minutes
- **Makes:** about 2 cups
- 3 red bell peppers, about 1 1/4 pounds total (you can use a combination of red, orange and yellow)
- 1 medium red or yellow onion, halved, each half cut into 3 pieces
- 3 large cloves garlic, unpeeled
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar or lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 package (8 ounces) feta cheese, crumbled (or 3/4 cup ricotta, or crumbled goat cheese, farmer's cheese or queso fresco)
- Chopped fresh parsley

1 Heat oven to 400 degrees. Cut the peppers in half; cut out the stem and seed pods. Put bell pepper pieces, onion and garlic on a rimmed baking sheet. Toss with the oil to coat well. Roast, turning everything once or twice, until vegetables are soft and a bit golden, about 30 minutes. Cool.

2 Peel the garlic. Turn on the food processor and drop the garlic into it to chop finely. Add the onion pieces and pulse 2 or 3 times to chop roughly. Add pepper pieces, vinegar and salt; pulse a few times to roughly chop peppers. Do not puree.

3 Transfer to a bowl. Add the feta cheese and mix gently. Serve warm or at room temperature, garnished with parsley.

For a speedy version: Substitute 2 jars (15 ounces each) roasted red peppers, drained and rinsed, in place of the fresh peppers. Slice the onion, crush the garlic and saute both in a skillet in 1 tablespoon oil until golden and soft, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in the finely chopped peppers, vinegar and cheese. Season with salt.

Nutrition information per tablespoon: 29 calories, 2 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 6 mg cholesterol, 2 g carbohydrates, 1 g sugar, 1 g protein, 102 mg sodium, 0 g fiber

SAUTEED GREENS WITH GARLIC AND RED WINE VINEGAR

- **Prep:** 10 minutes
- **Cook:** 5 minutes
- **Makes:** 2 to 3 servings
- If dandelion greens are not available, use baby kale, spinach, chard leaves (and stems diced) or lacinato kale leaves. For variety, add a few radish leaves, carrot tops and beet greens if fresh and unblemished.
- 2 bunches dandelion greens, 12 ounces total
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- Coarse (kosher) salt
- Red wine vinegar or fresh lemon juice
- Crushed red pepper flakes

1 Trim tough ends from greens. Put into a bowl of cold water and swish around. Use your hands to lift the greens from the water. Place on clean towel or spin dry in a salad spinner.

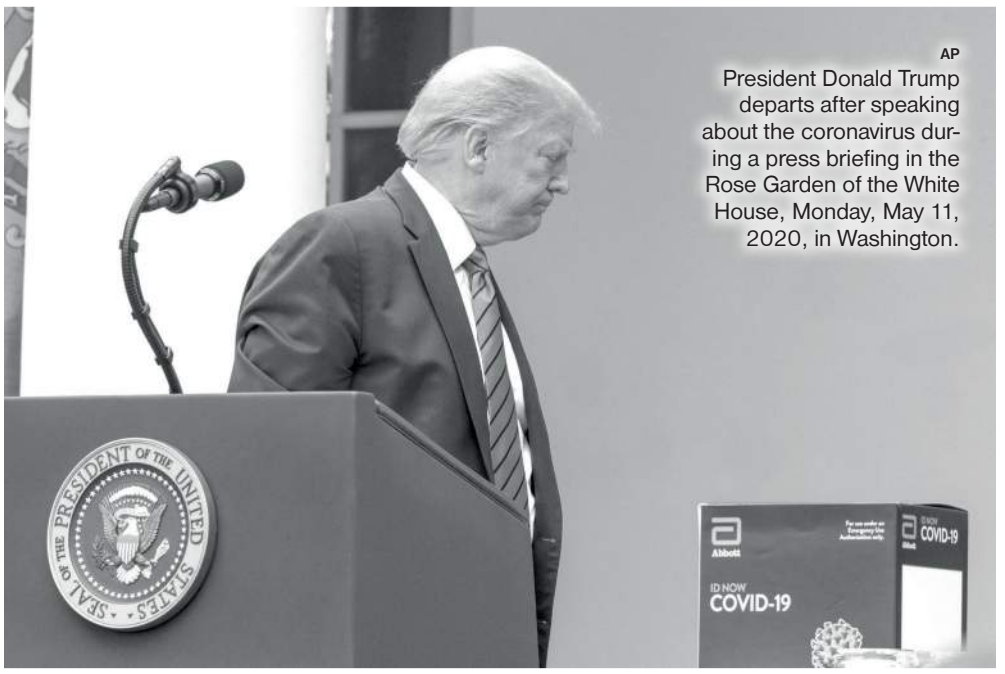
2 Heat a large skillet until hot. Add oil and onion; saute until onion is soft, about 3 minutes. Stir in garlic, the greens and a generous sprinkle of salt. The skillet will be very full, but keep gently turning the greens with tongs as they wilt and collapse (but leaving some greens slightly undercooked), about 2 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Season with a splash of vinegar and pepper flakes. Serve right away.

Nutrition information per serving (for 3 servings): 148 calories, 10 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 15 g carbohydrates, 2 g sugar, 4 g protein, 88 mg sodium, 5 g fiber

SPEEDY TZATZIKI

Use the large holes on a four-sided grater to shred 1 large seedless cucumber (peeled if you wish) into a colander. Sprinkle generously with salt and mix in 2 cloves garlic, crushed. Let stand a few minutes, then squeeze the mixture with clean hands to release some of the juices. Stir drained cucumber into 1 cup plain Greek yogurt or sour cream. Add 1 or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives or green onion tops if you have them.

Life & Style



AP
President Donald Trump departs after speaking about the coronavirus during a press briefing in the Rose Garden of the White House, Monday, May 11, 2020, in Washington.

Rapper Nick Blixky fatally shot in NYC; no suspect arrested

NEW YORK (AP)—Up-and-coming rapper Nick Blixky was shot and killed in New York City, police said Monday.

The 21-year-old, who was born Nickalus Thompson, was found with gunshot wounds in front of a building in the Prospect Lefferts Gardens neighborhood of Brooklyn at around 9:30 p.m. Sunday. He was taken to Kings County Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Blixky's Spotify profile says he started rapping for fun with his crew, Blixky Crew, but decided to take it more seriously and pursue a career in hip hop when fans responded positively to his YouTube videos.

Police have made no arrests in the shooting.

Telethon raises $115M for New Yorkers impacted by COVID-19

NEW YORK (AP)—Tina Fey shed tears after announcing that more than $115 million was raised toward supporting New Yorkers impacted by COVID-19 during a virtual telethon.

"Thank you, thank you," said a tearful Fey, the host of the Rise Up New York! event Monday evening. The Emmy-winning actress along with other A-list celebrities from Barbara Streisand, Jennifer Lopez and Michael Strahan asked for donations to help relief and recovery efforts.

"Our city is under attack, but we've been here before," Robert De Niro said. "In the last 20 years, both 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. You can take your best shot but you cannot break our spirit."

The one-hour benefit was presented by the New York-based poverty fighting organization, Robin Hood, and iHeartMedia.

Robin Hood said all the donations will provide support for food, shelter, cash assistance, mental health, legal services and education.

"If you had breakfast today, you are better off than 2 million of your neighbors who woke up hungry," Fey said.

Mariah Carey performed her 1992 song "Make It Happen." She sang while her backup singers and pianist performed on separate screens to the upbeat tune.

"We can make it through this together," Carey said.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, Cynthia Erivo, Idina Menzel, Ben Platt and others performed a rendition of Frank Sinatra's classic song "New York, New York." Lopez introduced PS22 Chorus, a collection of New York elementary school students who sang Andra Day's "Rise Up."

"New York, I know your strength," said Lopez, a New York native.

Spike Lee shared encouraging words that sports would return someday soon. Streisand and Audra McDonald showed the same optimism about New York City's Theater District coming back "stronger than ever" after being closed due to the pandemic lockdown.

Trump abruptly ends briefing after contentious exchanges

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump abruptly ended his White House news conference Monday following combative exchanges with reporters Weijia Jiang of CBS News and Kaitlan Collins of CNN.

Jiang asked Trump why he was putting so much emphasis on the amount of coronavirus tests that have been conducted in the United States.

"Why does that matter?" Jiang asked. "Why is this a global competition to you if everyday Americans are still losing their lives and we're still seeing more cases every day?"

Trump replied that "they're losing their lives everywhere in the world. And maybe that's a question you should ask China. Don't ask me. Ask China that question."

He called for another question, and there was no immediate response.

"Sir, why are you saying that to me, specifically?" Jiang asked. Jiang, who has worked for CBS News since 2015, was born in Xiamen, China, and emigrated to the United States with her family at age 2.

Trump said he would say that to "anyone who asks a nasty question."

"It's not a nasty question," Jiang said. "Why does that matter?"

Trump again asked for another question, then said, "Nah, that's OK" and waved off CNN's Collins when she approached the microphone.

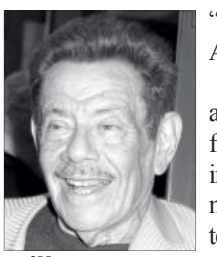
"You pointed to me," Collins said.

The president said, "I pointed to you and you didn't respond." Collins said she was giving Jiang the time to finish her questioning.

"Can I ask a question?" Collins said.

Jerry Stiller, comedian and 'Seinfeld' actor, dies at 92

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Stiller, who for decades teamed with wife Anne Meara in a beloved comedy duo and then reached new heights in his senior years as the high-strung Frank Costanza on the classic sitcom "Seinfeld" and the basement-dwelling father-in-law on "The King of Queens," died at 92, his son Ben Stiller announced Monday.



Stiller

"I'm sad to say that my father, Jerry Stiller, passed away from natural causes," his son said in a tweet.

"He was a great dad and grandfather and the most dedicated husband to Anne for about 62 years. He will be greatly missed. Love you Dad," wrote Ben, who followed in his father's comedic footsteps and became an A-list box office star with movies like "Tropic Thunder," "Dodgeball" and "There's Something About Mary."

Jerry Stiller was a multi-talented performer who appeared in an assortment of movies, playing Walter Matthau's police sidekick in the thriller "The Taking of Pelham One Two Three" and Divine's husband Wilbur Turnblad in John Waters' twisted comedy "Hairspray."

NBC News apologizes for 'inaccurately' quoting William Barr

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC has apologized for "inaccurately" cutting a portion of an interview with Attorney General William Barr that left a false impression with viewers of "Meet the Press."

The apology didn't satisfy President Donald Trump, who tweeted both Sunday and Monday that "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd should be fired.

The news show was discussing the Justice Department's decision last week to drop its case against Michael Flynn, the president's former national security adviser, when Todd played a portion of an interview that Barr gave last Thursday to CBS News.

When Barr was asked by reporter Catherine Herridge what history would say about the decision, Barr replied that "history is written by the winner. So it largely depends on who's writing the history."

Todd said that he was struck by the cynicism of that answer.

"It's a correct answer," Todd said. "But he's the attorney general. He didn't make the case that he was upholding the rule of law. He was almost admitting that, yeah, this is a political job."

Baked beans recipe wins smiles at family gatherings

DEAR ABBY: I love your column. Some years ago, you printed a recipe for baked beans. I believe they were called St. James' Baked Beans. I have lost my copy. I would get lots of compliments about how great they were at family gatherings and potlucks. Would you please reprint the recipe?

SHIRLEY IN BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

DEAR SHIRLEY: Thank you for your kind words and for letting me know how much you enjoyed that recipe. It's included in my Cookbooklet set, which contains more than 100 tasty recipes for soups, salads, appetizers, main courses and desserts that can be used when friends and family get together to celebrate holidays and special occasions. Shirley, I am pleased to share it, knowing you will continue to enjoy it.

ST. JAMES' BAKED BEANS

(Serves 8)

6 slices bacon, diced

1/2 cup chopped onion

1 (16-ounce) can pork and beans, drained

1 (16-ounce) can lima beans, drained

1 (15-ounce) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained

1 (10-ounce) package sharp cheddar cheese, cubed

1 cup ketchup

3/4 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Butter a 1 1/2-quart casserole. In a small skillet, saute the bacon and onions until the bacon is crisp and onions are lightly browned; drain well. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Add bacon-onion mixture; mix well. Pour bean mixture into prepared casserole. Bake uncovered at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

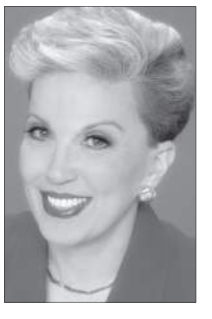
For readers who are interested in having my cookbooklets, they can be ordered as a set. Once you start reviewing "Cookbooklet II" you will discover that a sweet tooth runs in my family. The pecan pie recipe has won blue ribbons at county fairs, while others were featured on the covers of women's magazines. The booklets can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. I know the recipes will become among your favorites because dinner guests, family members—as well as many readers—have raved about them.

Also included in this collection are tips on entertaining, when those days return, for anyone who is inexperienced or nervous about it. Remember, although what you put on the table is important, it's WHO you put on the chairs that makes for a great party.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am seeing a guy whose roommate is a sex offender. I found out after I typed the address on the internet. I'm not sure how to ask my friend about it. Should I come right out and ask, or just leave it alone? I'm not sure he knows, but I would be surprised if he didn't. I don't want it to be awkward when I ask.

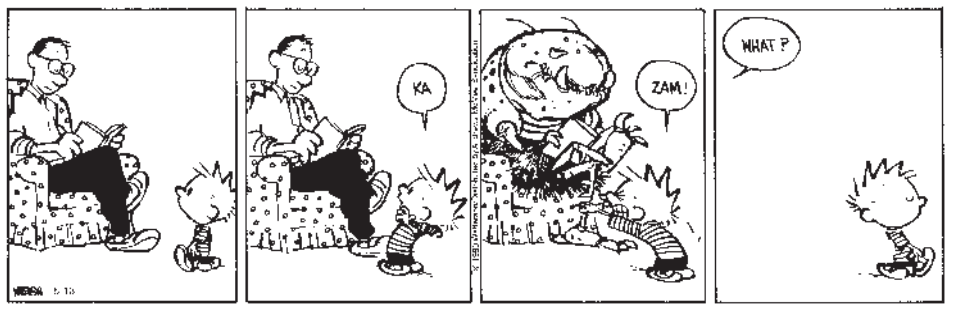
SHOCKED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SHOCKED: There are various levels of sex offenses, and the roommate's offense may be minor. Double-check to make sure the roommate's name, address and photo match what you found on the site. Tell the man you are seeing what you discovered, but not in an alarmist manner.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

CONSIDER THIS. IF IT WEREN'T FOR MICE...
THE PLANET WOULD BE OVERRUN WITH CHEESE!
WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
JIM DAVIS 5-13

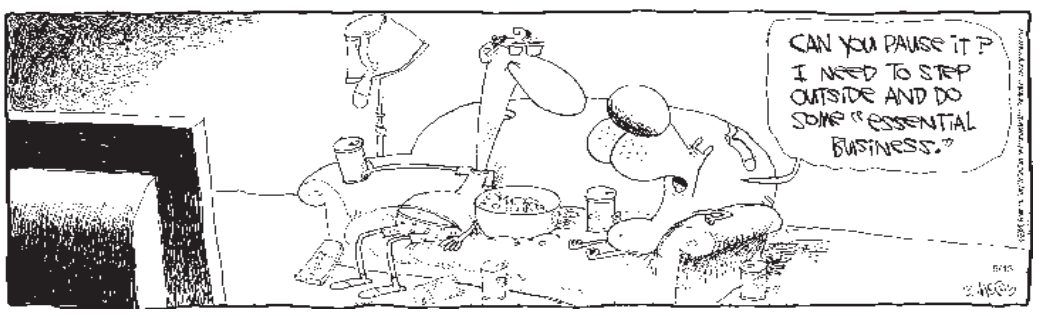
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

EUGENE. YOUR NAME IS EUGENE.
WHATEVER. FINE.
BUT I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING.
HM.M.
PLEASE DON'T.
THAT'S BETTER.
BE A NIGHTMARE, MY MOM SAID. BUT I HAD TO BE AN IMAGINARY FRIEND.
5/13

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nick and Nora's pet
5 Faux —
8 Not many
12 Bound
13 Last (Abbr.)
14 Egyptian river
15 Greet someone
17 Pesky insect
18 "Strange Interlude" playwright Eugene
19 Scours
21 Weir
22 Put the kibosh on
23 Architect I. M. —
26 Napkin's place
28 Rosters
31 Ticklish Muppet
33 Refusals
35 Mustang and Jaguar
36 Feather in one's cap
38 Insult, slangily
40 Evergreen tree
41 Big rig
43 USN officers
45 Country singer Larry
47 Cake tiers
51 Otherwise
52 Bless the food
54 Latin 101 word
55 Einstein's birthplace
56 Persia, today
57 Sun beams
58 Fannie —
59 Admin. aide

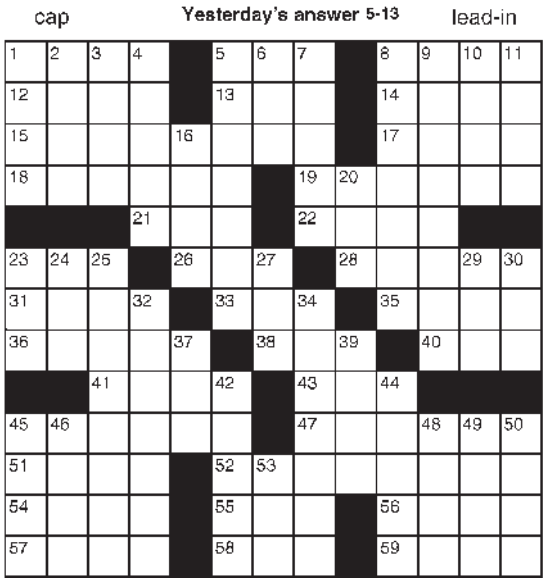
DOWN

1 Too
2 Writer O'Casey
3 Diggs of "Private Practice"
4 Plant pest
5 "Spaceballs" actor Bill
6 100%
7 Inventory
8 Perfectly behaved
9 Ultimate authority
10 Flair
11 Saturates
16 Airline to Tel Aviv
20 Like Abner or Wayne
23 Zing
24 Right angle
25 "Let me tell you ..."
27 Group of seals
29 Three, in Rome
30 Away from NNE
32 Breakfast orders
34 "I am a fool!"
37 Brit. record label
39 Men-only
42 "To recap ..."
44 Lebanon's neighbor
45 Equipment
46 — mater
48 Jug handles
49 Some HDTVs
50 Faxed
53 Mode lead-in

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	A	T	E	■	L	O	W	■	S	L	A	V
A	B	E	L	■	E	W	E	■	C	A	R	A
S	C	A	L	P	E	L	S	■	A	N	O	N
T	S	K	■	O	K	S	■	S	L	A	W	S
■	■	■	S	O	S	■	C	A	L	■	■	■
C	A	T	C	H	■	A	N	X	I	E	T	Y
C	O	K	A	■	M	S	N	■	O	I	I	S
S	K	Y	L	A	R	K	■	O	N	E	A	L
■	■	■	L	P	S	■	I	V	S	■	■	■
T	R	O	O	P	■	S	R	A	■	S	F	A
A	A	R	P	■	S	C	A	L	A	W	A	G
R	U	S	E	■	E	A	T	■	B	A	R	T
P	L	O	D	■	A	B	E	■	A	M	E	S

Yesterday's answer 5-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Candice King, 33; Lena Dunham, 34; Stephen Colbert, 56; Stevie Wonder, 70.

Happy Birthday: Question everything, choose quality over quantity and keep your emotions under control. Balance, integrity and fair play will be necessary if you want to avoid conflicts and interference. Choose to look at every angle, and use your intelligence and experience to guide you in the best direction possible. Aim to make fond memories instead of regrets. Your numbers are 9, 17, 23, 25, 34, 36, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A positive attitude will help you drum up interest in what you are trying to pursue. Don't let the changes others make slow you down or confuse you. Follow your heart, and focus on what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll do best if you listen more and reveal less. Keep your life simple and your expenses down, and avoid exaggeration, indulgence and promises you cannot keep. Monitor what others do, but don't criticize. Don't make emotional decisions. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* There is no better time to think, mull over and reflect. Revisit what's happened, how you reacted and what you can do to make improvements. Anger solves nothing, but taking decisive action will encourage better days ahead. Offer a kind gesture. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Enjoy time alone, and you will have a chance to appreciate your own company as well as reflect on those you miss. Pick up the phone, and let someone you love know you care. A friendly reminder or an encouraging word will be welcome. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll be on edge if you let the little things get to you. Take a deep breath, and rethink your strategy. Don't let a change or decision someone enforces cause anxiety. Go about your business, and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An attitude adjustment may be required. Try moving things around or clearing a space to house a hobby you want to pursue. Keep busy, do something constructive, set up an online group meeting and socialize with like-minded people. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* This is the perfect day to set up a conference call or to check into social media to find out what your friends have been doing. Watch documentaries or informative videos online, and share what you discover with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Emotional situations regarding financial, medical or legal issues you face will surface. Stay calm, and look for an innovative way to deal with matters, and it will ease stress and help you make adjustments that will offset future problems. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Chat with peers, and you will discover an insightful way to use your skills fortuitously. The suggestions made can lead to an alternative way to earn a living. Don't hide your feelings. If you love someone, say so. 4 stars

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Money matters may be worrisome, but that doesn't mean you should let anger set in or lead to problems with people you love. Set new ground rules and a budget that will help you overcome any losses you encounter to alleviate tension. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Channel your energy into physical fitness, healthy living and sharing your thoughts, feelings and intentions with someone you love. Don't let the changing times ruin your plans. Make adjustments, and proceed. An innovative approach to a growing problem will change the outcome. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Offer your services online, or get involved in a movement in your community that helps those in need. Finding new ways to adjust to the lifestyle changes you face will help solve boredom. Be part of the solution, not the problem. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, innovative and sensitive. You are compassionate and unpredictable.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7	5	9	8		2	1	4	6
6					7			
2					4			
8	9	3			1	5	6	
			6					8
			3					7
			5					1
			2					9
1	6	7			3	8	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	3	6	4	1	7	2	9	8
4	9	7	2	8	5	6	1	3
1	2	8	3	6	9	5	7	4
7	4	1	5	9	2	3	8	6
2	6	9	8	7	3	4	5	1
3	8	5	6	4	1	7	2	9
8	7	3	9	5	4	1	6	2
9	1	2	7	3	6	8	4	5
6	5	4	1	2	8	9	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GUMMY BEARS — Solution: 9 letters

L	G	E	L	A	T	I	N	D	S	U	G	A	R	H
C	A	N	D	Y	R	D	E	X	O	B	P	D	A	A
A	L	L	F	L	E	P	S	W	P	P	I	P	S	R
L	U	T	A	M	A	S	O	E	L	U	A	Y	P	I
O	F	A	I	H	T	L	C	E	Q	C	R	E	B	B
R	D	L	S	A	L	T	U	I	K	U	A	D	E	O
I	N	F	R	E	I	E	L	A	P	C	C	L	R	V
E	A	C	Y	N	S	O	G	A	H	H	A	O	R	I
S	H	V	O	T	T	E	R	N	E	E	R	G	Y	N
C	O	M	I	I	S	T	N	W	A	M	I	N	I	E
O	E	C	L	S	Y	H	Y	A	R	R	S	O	H	E
L	K	Y	O	M	B	I	T	E	B	W	O	S	E	P
O	X	U	M	A	C	U	T	E	E	L	F	U	I	A
R	R	U	L	L	U	P	L	E	E	K	A	M	D	R
S	Y	I	L	L	O	R	T	E	X	T	U	R	E	G

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Albanese, Apple, Bite, Bovine, Boxed, Calories, Candy, Chewy, Colors, Cute, Flat, Gelatin, Glucose, Gold, Grape, Green, Halal, Handful, Haribo, Heide, Lemon, Lime, Liquid, Make, Mini, Orange, Packages, Party, Peach, Pectin, Pull, Raspberry, Shaped, Small, Song, Sour, Starch, Stick, Sugar, Sweet, Syrup, Teeth, Texture, Treat, Trolli, Xylitol, Yellow, Yummy

Yesterday's Answer: Ninety-second

Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Sans Jordan, Bulls would have drafted Perkins

ILLINOIS (AP)—Rod Thorn, enjoying his moment in the media spotlight during the airing of The Last Dance is down for a round of 'What if?' … NBA Draft style.

What if Michael Jordan hadn't been on the board at No. 3 overall in the 1984 draft? Who would Thorn have selected?

The former Bulls general manager, who drafted Jordan, was asked those very questions in a recent appearance on "The Sports Junkies" show on 106.7 The Fan. Unlike many a former executive or athlete in such a scenario, Thorn was down to talk hypotheticals. He broke his thinking down step by step.

"You know, that's a very good question," Thorn told Cakes, Bish, EP and JP, the hosts of the show, "and the answer is that we would not have taken (Sam) Bowie, because our doctor had red-flagged him and said that he didn't feel that his legs would stand up to an NBA season. So Bowie, he wasn't in our sphere."

Off to a great start. Bowie, a heralded 7-footer from the University of Kentucky, was selected No. 2 overall by the Portland Trail Blazers in our reality. As the Bulls' doctors foresaw, leg injuries nagged Bowie throughout his 10-year career, and his being sandwiched between Hakeem Olajuwon at No. 1 and Jordan at No. 3 makes his legacy a severely underwhelming one. But at the time, there was league-wide skepticism a shooting guard could lead an NBA team to title contention, and the Blazers already had a budding star at the position in Clyde Drexler.

The Bulls harbored no such reservations. Still, they would have had an interesting choice to make had, say, Portland won the draft lottery (Thorn said in Episode 2 of The Last Dance that anybody, including him, would have drafted Olajuwon No. 1) and Houston selected Jordan at No. 2 (Thorn said on "The Sports Junkies" he believes they would have. And what a complement to Moses Malone Jordan would have been.)

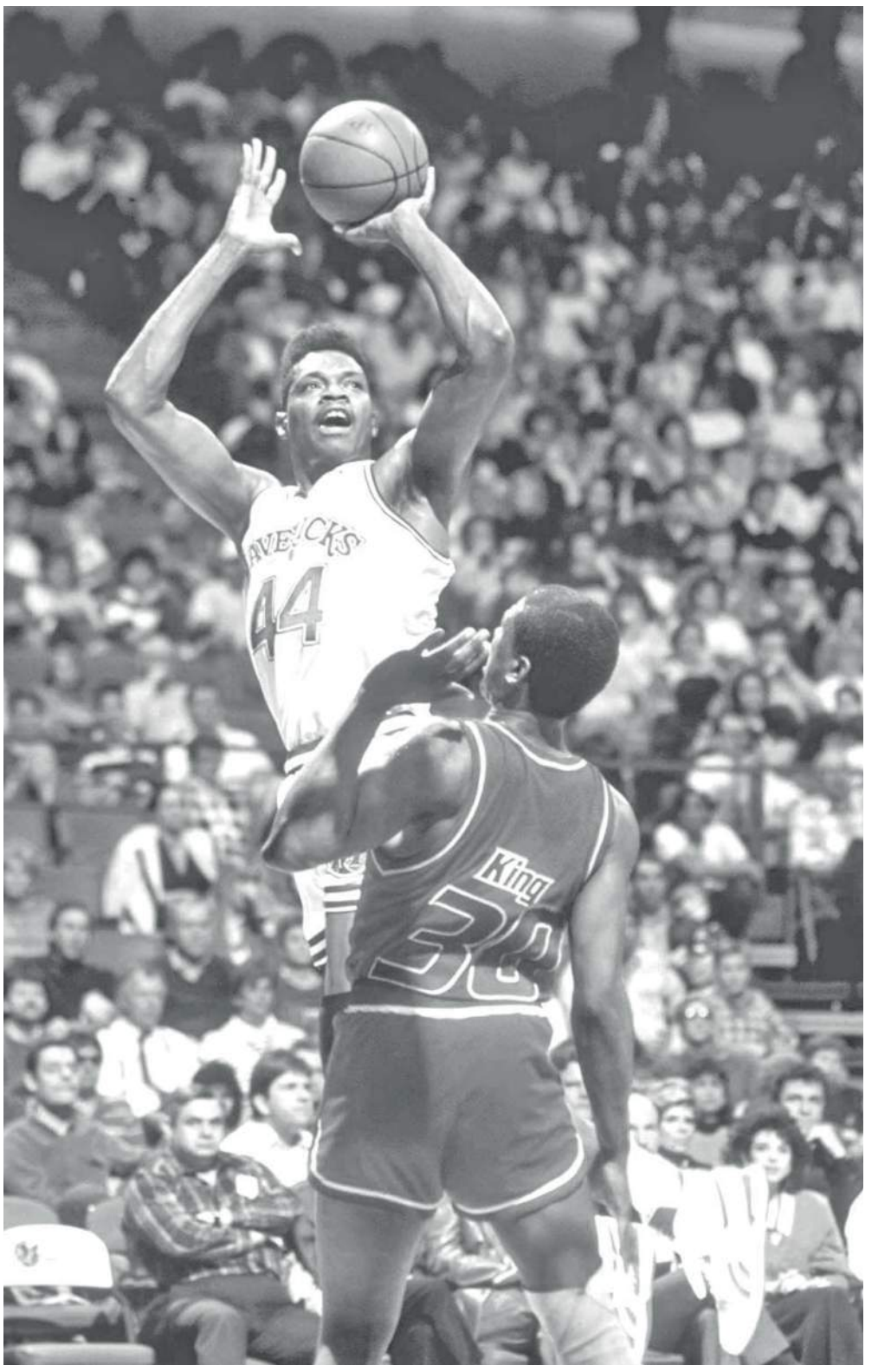
In retrospect, the option is obvious. Charles Barkley, who went No. 5 to the Philadelphia 76ers, forged a Hall of Fame career, earning an MVP, and 11 All-NBA and All-Star selections along the way. He;s not Jordan, but would have proved an indispensable addition for a Bulls franchise still finding its way in the league.

But Thorn admitted he would have gone in a different direction.

"I would've taken Sam Perkins, because I thought Barkley wasn't big enough," Thorn said, citing a game he scouted Barkley in which the Auburn forward struggled against Bobby Lee Hurt of Alabama as evidence for his slightly sour perception of his game. "I just said, 'The guy is so small. There's no way he can do in the NBA what he's doing in the SEC.'

"And that would have been a mistake, although Perkins was a very good player and had a long career, and was very good. But Barkley was certainly an all-time player. So, thank goodness it worked out the way it did."

Perkins did go on to a more-than-serviceable 17-year NBA career that spanned four franchises. And Thorn wouldn't stick around in Chicago for long, even given his shrewd selection of Jordan. When Jerry Reinsdorf and a group of investors purchased the Bulls in 1985, they installed their own man—Jerry Krause—to head up basketball operations.



AP

In this undated file photo, Dallas Mavericks' Sam Perkins pulls up for a shot against the Washington Bullets' Bernard King in Texas.

But for Thorn's legacy, the wellbeing of both the Bulls franchise and fan base. Thank goodness things worked out the way they did, indeed.

Robinson: Thomas left off due to chemistry

The Last Dance documentary has people talking Jordan and re-litigating 30-year-old NBA controversies, with more to come this weekend as the ESPN series talks Jordan playing baseball and the way he treated teammates.

At the top of the re-litigation list: Should Isaiah Thomas have been left off the Dream Team?

Did Jordan, maybe with backing from teammates, keep Thomas off?

David Robinson—a member of the gold-medal 1992 Barcelona Olympic team—said Thomas should not have been surprised he was left off the Dream Team, he did it to himself. This is Robinson on the Bulls Talk podcast with Jason Goff on NBC Sports Chicago.

"If you have a reputation and you take pride in your reputation as a 'Bad Boy' it kind of means people aren't going to like you," Robinson told Goff. "Can you be that surprised when people say 'I don't really want to play with the 'Bad Boys?'…

"When you talk about putting together a team, chemistry matters. It does," Robinson said. "You can't act like it doesn't matter and for that team it was clear that was a consideration for all the people involved."

This echoes what Jordan and others said. Robinson said he is a fan of Thomas' skill and what he and the Pistons accomplished, but that doesn't mean The Admiral saw Thomas as a Dream Team fit.

No doubt, chemistry does matter in building a team, and if there is friction between one player and the rest of the roster any front office has to consider that.

On the other hand, the Dream Team could have all hated each other and still won going away—at that point the NBA elite were light years ahead of their foreign counterparts. ***(NBC)***

Stricker appoints Love, Johnson as Ryder Cup assistants

PALM BEACH GARDEN, Fla. (AP)—Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker has asked two-time U.S. captain Davis Love III and Zach Johnson to be his assistants for the upcoming matches at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

Stricker previously appointed the last captain, Jim Furyk, to be one of his assistants.

The Ryder Cup is still on schedule to be played Sept. 25-27—one week after the rescheduled U.S. Open.

"Jim and I have talked about this a lot in the last year and now we are happy to add two Ryder Cup veterans in Zach and Davis to the conversation with the goal of putting this team in a prime position to win," Stricker said.

He referred to Love and Johnson as "strong communicators."

Love was captain at Medinah in Illinois in 2012 when Europe rallied from a 10-6 deficit on the final day, the largest comeback by a visiting team in Ryder Cup history. He was appointed captain again for the 2016 matches at Hazeltine in Minnesota, the first Ryder Cup since players were given more control over decisions. The Americans won for only the second time in eight matches.

Europe won in France two years ago.

The Americans wanted more continuity when their task force met after the 2014 matches, and one of the arrangements was for two of the assistant captains to formerly have been captains. The other two had to have Ryder Cup experience.

Johnson has played on five teams and had an 8-7-2 record. The 2016 Ryder Cup was the last time he played. He was an assistant to Furyk in France, and he was an assistant to Tiger Woods at the Presidents Cup in December.

Love played in six Ryder Cups, most recently in 2004. Along with twice being captain, he was an assistant to Corey Pavin in Wales in 2010 and to Furyk at the last Ryder Cup.

Meanwhile, there are mixed emotions these days at TPC Harding Park.

The weather forecast, often so fickle in and around San Francisco, has obliged this week in a big way: lows in the 50s, highs in the 60s with plenty of sun. The course is in pristine condition, with nary a blade out of place on what should have been the first day of its first PGA Championship week.

Of course, that was before the calendar was disrupted and reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. So now Harding Park officials are left to plan for a major debut that's still three months away while also welcoming new guest play and squeezing in some time to rue what might have been.

"It's definitely a little somber today on property," said Harding Park general manager Tom Smith. "But there's still a lot of hope on the horizon."

San Francisco was one of the early coronavirus hotspots in the U.S., and as a result the city's decision to restrict activities and social interactions came earlier than in some other parts of the country. In mid-March, workers at Harding Park were in the midst of building out grandstands when word came down that it all had to stop. Construction still has not yet resumed, as the course remains in communication with officials from the city, state and PGA of America as to what options might be on the table for the tournament's rescheduled dates of Aug. 6-9.

Like with many PGA Tour events slated for later this year, there are still two distinct possibilities in terms of tournament operations: one that calls for the event to be played in front of at least some fans, and one that would include no fans at all. While Smith still holds out hope for fans to be able to experience a "traditional PGA Championship" in what would be the first PGA played on the West Coast since 1998, he admitted that course officials will be reacting to—and not making—the decision to allow fans.

Tagovailoa signs $30.2M, 4-year deal

AP
In this Oct. 19, 2019 file photo, Alabama quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa (5) warms up before an NCAA college football game against Tennessee in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

MIAMI (AP)—Now Tua Tagovailoa can pay for that Cadillac Escalade he gave his mom.

The new Miami Dolphins quarterback signed a $30.275 million, four-year guaranteed contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Monday.

The contract includes a $19.6 million signing bonus, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Dolphins hadn't announced the deal.

Tagovailoa posted a video on Mother's Day that showed him surprising his mother, Diane, with a black SUV.

Last month the Dolphins selected Tagovailoa with the fifth overall pick in the draft. They are optimistic he'll recover fully from a hip injury that ended his Alabama career in mid-November and hoping he'll become a franchise quarterback.

Tagovailoa says doctors have indicated he's on schedule for a return in 2020. His No. 1 jersey is among the best-selling in the NFL since it was assigned to him last week.

The Dolphins have also agreed to a four-year deal with second-round defensive tackle Raekwon Davis. With Davis and Tagovailoa signed, the Dolphins now have six of their 11 draft picks from last month under contract.

Davis was the second of Miami's two second-round picks this year and comes to Miami after four seasons with the Crimson Tide. Davis broke out with 69 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, and a team-high 8.5 sacks during the 2017 season and added an interception in the national title game victory over Georgia.

Davis' last two seasons weren't quite as productive, but he still caught the Dolphins' eye and should be in position to get early playing time with his new team.

In Baltimore, the Ravens have signed free agent guard D.J. Fluker, who is expected to compete for the opening on the offensive line created by the retirement of Marshal Yanda.

Fluker has 92 games of NFL experience over seven years with three teams, most recently the Seattle Seahawks. He has played primarily at right guard, the position Yanda manned for the majority of his 13 seasons before retiring in March.

Fluker signed a one-year contract, the Ravens announced Monday. He has 88 career starts, the last 57 of them at guard.

The 6-foot-5, 342-pound Fluker started in 14 regular-season games and had two playoff starts for Seattle at right guard last season.

Selected 11th overall out of Alabama in the 2013 draft by the Chargers, Fluker played tackle in his first two NFL seasons before switching to guard in 2015.

Before his two-year stint with the Seahawks, Fluker spent an injury-shortened 2017 season with the New York Giants. He played in nine games, including six starts, before being sidelined with a toe injury.

The Ravens have placed a priority this offseason on filling the void at right guard. They drafted two offensive lineman and intend to give second-year pro Ben Powers a shot at stepping up into a starting role.

It was also reported that the Ravens have signed undrafted free agent guard Daishawn Dixon.

Dixon was a three-year starter at left guard during his time at San Diego State. He was voted second-team All-Mountain West after his final year with the Aztecs.

The Ravens also added a couple of offensive linemen in the draft last month. Third-rounder Tyre Phillips and fourth-rounder Ben Bredeson may join Fluker in the mix to replace the retired Marshal Yanda on the interior of the line.

In Las Vegas, the Raiders agreed to a deal Monday with former Denver Broncos running back Devontae Booker.

A 2016 fourth-round pick out of Utah, Booker played four seasons with the Broncos and rushed for 1,103 yards over 61 games that included six starts.

Last season, the 27-year-old Booker saw his role largely reduced to special teams. He had two carries for nine yards.

Booker's most productive season was his rookie campaign when he rushed for 612 yards and scored four touchdowns. He also had 31 receptions for 265 yards and a score that season.

The 5-foot-11, 219-pound Booker is a native of Sacramento.

Las Vegas also waived linebacker Derrick Moncrief on Monday.

In New England, the Patriots drafted 10 players. They have agreed to terms with nine.

The latest is third-round choice Dalton Keene, a tight end from Virginia Tech. Keene reached agreement on his contract Monday, Field Yates of ESPN reports.

Second-round safety Kyle Dugger is the only Patriots' draft choice yet unsigned.

Keene, who started 38 consecutive games for the Hokies, projects as a versatile H-back.

In three college seasons, he made 59 catches for 748 yards and eight touchdowns.

That includes 21 receptions for 240 yards and five touchdowns in 13 games in 2019.

Ticket sales: Raiders smoking hot; Pats deflating fast

LAS VEGAS—If it wasn't bad enough that Tom Brady left and convinced Rob Gronkowski to go with him, the iconic Patriots quarterback has taken the air out of the secondary ticket market in New England, too.

That's what the initial data suggests from national ticket brokering search engine ticketiQ.com, which is showcasing some of what we expected in the first wave of NFL ticket-selling trends in 2020. Chief among the revelations is that Las Vegas is the place to be for an NFL game next season. We'll get to that in a moment, but not before noting that Brady's move to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers is already sticking out like a sore thumb where it concerns demand.

Not only has Brady created a void of buyers in New England's reselling market, he has spurred a deep well of demand for tickets in Tampa Bay. That's not to say the Patriots have been a complete bust—New England is 12th in the NFL in average ticket resale prices in the early going, with seats running an average of $433 per game. But with the Patriots yet to have their primary ticket release, that 12th overall slot is being artificially supported by a lack of inventory available on the secondary market. When the team releases more tickets to the public, New England's slot could slump considerably.

As it stands, New England's $433 average price tag per secondary market ticket is a whopping 39 percent below last season's average. That's nearly double the next worst performer in the Chicago Bears, who have dropped off 22 percent below last season's average ticket.

And the flip side: The Buccaneers are the recipient of Brady's wind in their sails (and sales), with a 135 percent jump in average prices over last year. The Buccaneers now have the sixth priciest average ticket on the secondary market, at $485 per seat.

TicketiQ founder Jesse Lawrence said there are signs of "pent up" demand for NFL games, with the league-wide average of tickets going for $391 per seat, compared to $258 last season. That could be pulled down once all NFL teams release their primary bundle of tickets to fans. Thus far, 10 franchises have yet to have their wide release.

Only one franchise has entirely sold out its home games already: The Raiders.

They'll open Allegiant Stadium as the hottest seat in the NFL when it comes to secondary tickets. Data from ticketiQ lists Las Vegas as already boasting an astronomical $1,098 price tag for the average ticket in the secondary market. That's a 528 percent increase over last season's average for the Raiders, who more than triple the next nearest team in terms of a jump in demand.

The New York Jets came in second with an increased demand of 153 percent.

As the NFL expected for 2020, Las Vegas will be the prime destination game for many opposing fans. Now, they'll just have to dig deep for the experience.

The second-hottest team in the NFL: the Denver Broncos, thanks to a lengthy waiting list for season tickets that is more than 80,000 strong. Given that list and the wave of newfound optimism over quarterback Drew Lock in 2020, Denver is checking in at an average of $774 per ticket.

As for the opposite end of the spectrum, the lowest demand in the league is partially what you'd expect—the Detroit Lions had the cheapest average secondary market price of $142—but also surprising in who ranks 31st. That second-to-last slot is held by the Buffalo Bills, who should not only be in playoff contention in 2020, but might be a popular pick to win the AFC East following Brady's departure from New England.

The fact remains that the weather and cult-like devotion of the Bills Mafia fan base definitely impacts prices. Not a whole lot of out-of-towners are looking to go into Buffalo to watch a game, leading to an average secondary price of $179. ***(NBC/AP)***

MLB owners OK plan for July opening

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball owners gave the go-ahead Monday to making a proposal to the players' union that could lead to the coronavirus-delayed season starting around the Fourth of July weekend in ballparks without fans, a plan that envisioned expanding the designated hitter to the National League for 2020.

Spring training could start in early to mid-June, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the plan were not announced.

MLB officials are slated to make a presentation to the union on Tuesday. An agreement with the players' association is needed, and talks are expected to be difficult—especially over a proposal for a revenue split that would be unprecedented for baseball. Players withstood a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 to fight off such a plan.

AP
A view of Dodger Stadium amid the global coronavirus pandemic, Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in Los Angeles.

"If you do anything that resembles a cap, that smells like a cap, you've given too much," said Dave Stewart, a four-time 20-game winner who is now an agent and spent two years as Arizona's general manager.

"A salary cap has been a non-starter for the players as long as I've been in baseball," said David Samson, president of the Expos and Marlins from 2002-17. "I think when MLB is proposing a revenue split, it is with the full knowledge that the players' union will automatically reject that."

Each team would play about 82 regular-season games: against opponents in its own division plus interleague matchups limited to AL East vs. NL East, AL Central vs. NL Central and AL West vs. NL West.

Postseason play would be expanded from 10 clubs to 14 by doubling wild cards in each league to four.

Teams would prefer to play at their regular-season ballparks but would switch to spring training stadiums or neutral sites if medical and government approvals can't be obtained for games at home. Toronto might have to play home games in Dunedin, Florida.

"We'll see where we will be in July," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is the home of five MLB clubs and who has talked with baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred. "We certainly look forward to Major League Baseball and all sports resuming. But again, the question is when and that will be determined on the basis of public health and public safety and the spread of this virus."

The All-Star Game, scheduled for Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on July 14, likely would be called off.

Medical issues will be at the forefront of talks along with economics.

"Bear with me, but it feels like we've zoomed past the most important aspect of any MLB restart plan: health protections for players, families, staff, stadium workers and the workforce it would require to resume a season," Washington pitcher Sean Doolittle tweeted. "What's the plan to ethically acquire enough tests? ... What's the protocol if a player, staff member, or worker contracts the virus?"

Teams will propose that players receive the percentage of their 2020 salaries based on a 50-50 split of revenues MLB receives during the regular-season and postseason, which likely will be among the most contentious aspects of the proposal during negotiations with the players' association.

"These concepts are beyond the spectrum of what players have both fought for and derived from the CBA from inception: salary caps, methodologies like this are something far afield from our working relationship with Major League Baseball," said Scott Boras, the sport's best-known agent. "You certainly know why they would suggest it."

That proposal would take into account fans being able to return to ballparks at some point, perhaps with a small percentage of seats sold at first and then gradually increasing.

Baseball players have refused to consider even the frameworks for the type of revenue splits that have been agreed to by unions in the NFL, NBA and NHL.

Active rosters would be expanded from 26 to around 30. With minor leagues shuttered, there likely will be the addition of about 20 players per club akin to the NFL's practice squad.

Teams would have the option of holding the resumption of spring training at home or at their facilities in Florida and Arizona. Most teams based in Florida appear to be leaning toward that option, while Arizona-based clubs are inclined to work out at home rather than deal with June heat in the Phoenix area.

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ning and course design meeting scheduled in March. It remains on hold until further advisement from the ITU Continental Development Coordinator," Castro said.

Once it's safe to move forward, TRAC, with guidance from ITU, will discuss pertinent details on its preparation for the Mini Games.

"We will have a timeline on the series of tryouts, schedule for on and off-island training, and the international competition for the men and women, who will be selected to represent the CNMI in the Mini Games in 2022," Castro said.

Besides triathlon, other sports included on the Mini Games are athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, and golf. Tennis and weightlifting maybe added on the short list depending on the decision of participating island-nations, which will have a general assembly along with the Pacific Games Council later this year on Saipan.

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out for the College of the Desert anew and torqued up for a two-run homer in their 5-12 lost to Palomar.

Meanwhile, though his freshman season was cut short, Dickinson is thankful to have the opportunity to play in the collegiate level and make it to the starting unit of his team. He then credited his Saipan coaches, parents, and teammates for helping him develop his passion for baseball.

"My love for the sport all started on Saipan. The skills I learned in Little League and the all-star teams gave me a great foundation. I give a lot of credit to my dad and my different coaches along with the support from my family and even my teammates who pushed me to do my best," said Dickinson, who took the Finals MVP in the SLLB 2016 season after towing the Falcons to a 10-7 triumph over the Enforcers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Spencer Dickinson gets ready at third base while playing for IT&E in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Dickinson added that by suiting up for the CNMI Major, Junior, and Senior League all-star teams, he was able to gain valuable experience challenging players from other countries and learned from them and their highly competitive matches.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Spencer Dickinson, seen here in a 2019 photo, pitched for the Rancho Mirage High School in California.

"Those experiences also gave me the confidence to move to the states at the age of 16. I made the high school varsity team (Rancho Mirage High School) in my junior and senior year which prepared me for college baseball. We had intense practice daily and on some weekends. Then during the summer, I played on a traveling team which again included practice and competitions with other players my age or older," said Dickinson.

Although their season is over, Dickinson won't take a break from the sport, as he wants to play better in his second year with the Roadrunners.

"I need to keep improving my skills and that includes the techniques of baseball, weightlifting, running, and communication. It's a lot of hard work but I am happy and blessed because not everyone gets the opportunity to play. All the sacrifice my family has made for me is what keeps me going and trying to stay on top of the game."

Sans Jordan, Bulls would have drafted Perkins

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Tagovailoa signs $30.2M, 4-year deal

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Dickinson gets starting spot

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spencer Dickinson of the College of the Desert attempts to catch the ball, while an LA Valley runner dives to third base during their game in the Inland Empire Conference of the California Community College Athletic Association on Feb. 18, 2020, in Los Angeles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spencer Dickinson, standing second left, poses with CNMI Junior All-Star Team players and coaches and the Australian Team after prevailing in their semis match in the 2015 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament held on Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI Little League product Spencer Dickinson has moved up to the collegiate ranks and managed to earn a starting spot in his rookie season.

Dickinson, who used to compete for McDonald's, IT&E, and the Talaabwogh Falcons in the Saipan Little League Baseball, is now with the College of the Desert, playing third base and shorts stop for the Roadrunners in the California Community College Athletic Association.

The 19-year-old has played 23 matches for the College of the Desert in the Inland Empire Conference since January this year before the season was cut short by the coronavirus pandemic. In his 20-plus games for the Roadrunners, who are grouped with Antelope Valley, Barstow, Cerro Coso, Chaffey, Mt. San Jacinto, San Bernardino Valley, and Victor Valley, Dickinson posted a batting average of .244 after going 19-for-78. He also scored 13 RBIs, nine runs, and two doubles.

One of the highlights of the former CNMI Junior All-Star Team member's rookie season was his home runs in back-to-back games. The first one was against Antelope Valley, as he blasted a three-run dinger to power the Roadrunners to a 12-8 victory in their Feb. 18 match. The following day, Dickinson started

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Mini Games new date good for triathlon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The proposed new schedule for the Pacific Mini Games will be favorable for the Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

The Mini Games, which Saipan will be hosting, is originally set for June next year, but the CNMI Pacific Mini Games Oversight Committee has suggested to have the event in 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic and to avoid conflict with the Tokyo Olympic Games. The move, according to TRAC official Ricky Castro, will benefit triathlon as far as hosting the competition and forming a team are concerned.

"The longer preparation we have, the better results we can get when we host and compete in the Mini Games," Castro said.

The TRAC official added that the change of schedule is very timely, as the triathlon community does not expect to have any competition or event in the coming months because of the pandemic.

"We won't be seeing any activities soon, but hopefully when everything is back to normal, by the last quarter of the year, we could hold some events," Castro said.

After triathlon was included on the program for the Mini Games and the CNMI government reaffirmed its commitment to support the quadrennial event, TRAC gained membership from the International Triathlon Union, making the local federation certified to host a regional competition. TRAC then coordinated with ITU to start its preparation for the hosting of the triathlon event in the Mini Games, but the process was halted when the pandemic came.

"As for hosting the event, the ITU postponed the plan-

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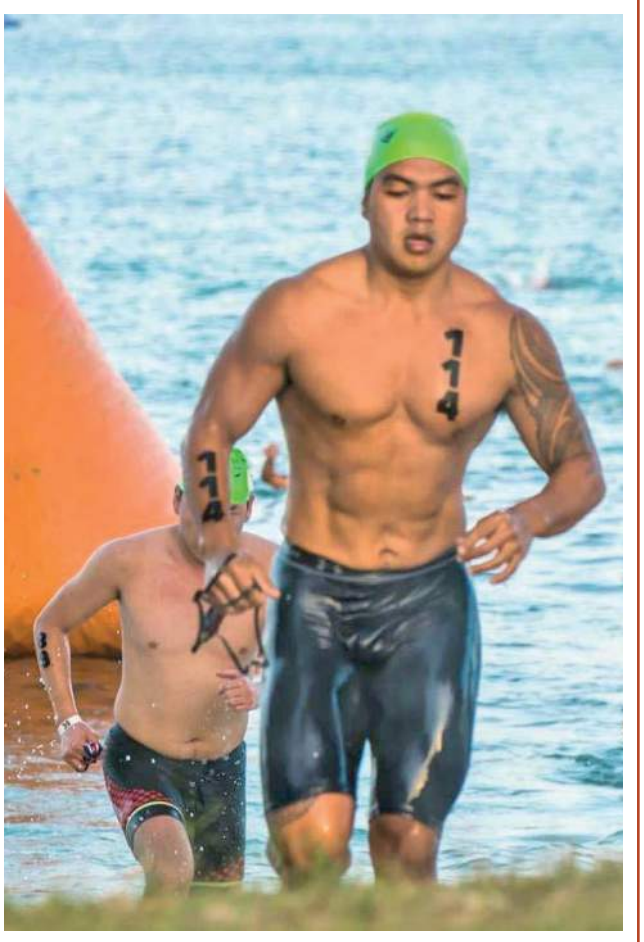

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Swimmers head to the swim-bike transition area at Kilili Beach during the 2019 Tagaman Triathlon. Triathlon events and other sports competitions are on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.